

# Blackjack PROVIDER

## MISSION CONTINUES THROUGH TRANSFORMATION

1ST COSCOM FAREWELL  
TSC ACTIVATES  
PEACEKEEPING IN SINAI  
CULINARY EXCELLENCE  
PROJECT TASK FORCE



AIRBORNE



The Army's Contingency Support Command  
Spring 2006

Volume 8

# Blackjack PROVIDER



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### ON THE COVER...



Soldiers hard at work despite transformation. Cover photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop.



# Letter from the Commander

## *“The Road Ahead”*

It has been almost five months since I assumed command, however, I would like to take this opportunity to again thank everyone for making my transition a smooth one and helping Pam and I feel at home in the 1st Team.

Since the transformation of the 1st Corps Support Command to the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), these past months have been very hectic and will continue to be so in the future. We have a large task ahead of us. Our personnel numbers have decreased; however our mission and area of responsibility has significantly increased. Additionally, the support that this headquarters once provided to the XVIII Airborne Corps has now shifted to Army Central Command. And with that, the inactivation of the

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*“We have a large task ahead of us.”*

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46th Corps Support Group and the Corps Distribution Command was an important pivotal point in the transformation of Army logistics at Fort Bragg. As for the 507th Corps Support Group (who will remain an XVIII Airborne Corps asset), we will continue to support them until October of this year. It is vital that we continue the ties with what was once one of the pillars that held up the 1st COSCOM.

No one ever said that transformation was easy. We will no longer operate on the operational level, where we brought the fuel, ammunition and food to the warfighters, but instead on a



**Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard**  
**Commanding General**

strategic level. We will be responsible for the command and control of probably hundreds of logistical units operating in our theater of responsibility. We will be the first unit of our kind to exist. It is going to take each of us to continue to be flexible, to have patience and to keep all lines of communications open, be it to the chain of command or our families at home. One of this biggest things we have to have is patience- patience with the way we are going to operate and patience with future deployments. The one thing that we plan on ensuring is predictability in all that we do. For example, my goal is to ensure that although we might deploy more often, our deployments will be shorter. I think that this is something that our families and we as Soldiers will appreciate.

I have devised a number of programs to help this command through the remainder of our transformation period and as a new

command. One of these programs involves ensuring that our families are well taken care of as we deploy. Already our Soldier and Family Readiness Groups have done a phenomenal job, however, you can always find areas to improve.

Although we are implementing new programs, we still need your help; as leaders, supervisors, battle buddies and friends to each other. When you observe something out of the ordinary, or if you see something that can be done better, tell someone. In helping the command, you are helping yourself. Together, we can achieve more.

This will be the final issue of this magazine under the 1st COSCOM, however, not the last as the 1st TSC. Inside, we hope that you will enjoy some of the history and bittersweet

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*“It is going to take each of us to continue to be flexible, to have patience and to keep all lines of communications open.”*

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moments captured for you. This issue was purposely put together for you as a 1st COSCOM Soldier to place on your bookshelves at home in order to remind you of a long and proud tradition that you will forever be a member of. Enjoy!



**Command Sgt. Maj. Luis Lopez**  
**1st COSCOM CSM**

Since our redeployment, many things have been going on in the 1st COSCOM; a lot of changes with a different focus. Upon our return, our focus was on transformation; something that could not fall by the wayside. As the first unit of its kind to stand up, the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), we will set the

example for others to follow, expect that there will be some distress.

Change is inevitable, however it is how we adapt to that change that will make all the difference. Although these changes have taken place or are in the process of occurring, one thing that must remain prevalent is taking care of Soldiers. When taking care of ourselves

and each other, everything else will fall into place. So don't lose focus.

Our hours will change, our weekends and holidays will change and our deployments will significantly change. We are doing our best to ensure that this change doesn't significantly impact quality of life.

While we are sorting things out to ensure that this new command sets the standard, it is important that you remain patient and flexible. Information flow will come your way, and it is your responsibility to disseminate it to the lowest level.

Summer is just around the corner. This is the time for you to take leave and spend it with your family and friends. Summer is also the time of year where there is an increase in injuries and accidental deaths. Since children will be out of school during the summer be cautious of your driving. Protect yourself against heat injuries by getting enough rest, drinking plenty of water and avoiding drinking alcoholic beverages within a set number of hours prior to an activity. This is also the season where ticks like to stow away leaving behind lyme disease. Make sure you not only check yourselves and your young ones, but also don't forget to check your pets who can transmit these critters. Your family needs you and the Army needs you.

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# Logistics Generals change command

By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

“Master of distribution” and “the premier combat logistician” is what Maj. Gen. Virgil L. Packett II, the acting commander for the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, called Brig. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine during the 1st Corps Support Command change of command ceremony, Dec. 16 at Fort Bragg’s Seay Field.

Fontaine, who commanded the 1st COSCOM for more than two years, relinquished the command to Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard.

A native of Belgium, Fontaine served as the chief of staff of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command from 2001 until 2003 before taking command of the 1st COSCOM.

Leonard served as the deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Field Support Command at Fort Belvoir, Va. As the DCG, Leonard deployed in support of OIF and served as the commanding general

of the Army Materiel Command Forward-Southwest Asia/C-4 in Kuwait; the same time Fontaine deployed with his troops to Iraq.

Both officers worked “side by side” thousands of miles apart from each other in support of OIF.

“Kevin was in Kuwait lining up and getting these supplies ready so Yves could push them forward,” Packett said. “These guys have been working together for a long time.”

“You did a tremendous job supporting us [in Iraq] as the AMC commander,” Fontaine said as he addressed Leonard during his speech.

While in Iraq, the 1st COSCOM provided logistical support to the



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Maj. Gen. Virgil L. Packett II, acting XVIII Airborne Corps commander passes the 1st Corps Support Command's colors to the new commander of the 1st COSCOM, Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard Dec. 16 at Fort Bragg's Seay Field.**

Multinational Corps-Iraq, which included combat logistics patrols pushing the mail, water, fuel and food needed to sustain the momentum of U.S. and Coalition Forces across Iraq and Kuwait.

Additionally, the 1st COSCOM partnered with Iraqi forces to facilitate the development of the Iraqi army's logistics system.

Since taking command in July 2003, Fontaine has deployed troops to various countries in the Middle East in support of the war on terrorism. Additionally, the COSCOM continues to conduct peacekeeping mission in Sinai, Egypt.

Aside from combat and peacekeeping operations, Fontaine

*See GENERALS, page 46*



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division's 321st Field Artillery conduct a 13 gun salute during the 1st Corps Support Command's change of command ceremony between Brigadier Generals Yves J. Fontaine and Kevin A. Leonard at Fort Bragg's Seay Field Dec. 16.**



# TF Sinai receives final Black Hawks

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

The final three of eight UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters departed Pope Air Force Base Jan. 29 to be sent to the Soldiers of the 1st Support Battalion, or Task Force Sinai, 1st Corps Support Command, in support of the Multinational Force Observer in Egypt.

Task Force Sinai Soldiers have previously been conducting missions with Vietnam-era UH-1H Huey helicopters since the beginning of the MFO operations for missions such as transporting troops and supplies, search and rescue missions and medical evacuations.

However, the Black Hawk is replacing older, obsolete helicopters as part of the transformation of the Army's Aviation Corps, including the Hueys in the Sinai.

The first five Black Hawks made their way to Soldiers in the Sinai in December 2005 via a chartered Russian-made Antonov AN-124 Condor.

"This mission was different in that we used an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III instead of the contracted AN-124," said Maj. Joe Martini, aviation readiness officer from the Corps Distribution Command, 1st COSCOM. "There was a little more required by the Air Force."

The process of loading helicopters onto a cargo jet was almost the same. According to Martini, there was only one difference.

"The only thing that made this mission more difficult was the changes [in the schedule]," Martini said. "We went through a lot of changes waiting for the (C-17) to show up, but we were ready since mid-January. Some of the problems with the arrival was from aircraft and crew availability for the Air Force."

As with any Army operation, one of the most important requirements is the proper use of teamwork, which as Martini pointed out, was as important in this operation as with any other.

The XVIII Airborne Corps, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, the 1st COSCOM, 18th Aviation Brigade, the Air Force at Pope Air Force Base, and the MFO in the Sinai were only a few of the key organizations involved in this operation, Martini said.

"It was a tremendous amount of cooperation to make this mission happen in such a short period of

*See BLACKHAWKS, page 42*



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

The last of three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters is towed into the cargo hold of a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III in the late evening of Jan. 29 at Yellow Ramp on Pope Air Force Base.



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Col. Kenneth McMillin (right), 46th Corps Support Group Commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Boles, furl the 46th CSG colors during an inactivation ceremony held Feb 15 at the COSCOM Memorial site.**

Kenneth McMillin, the commander of the 46th CSG. “As a result, we have undergone a comprehensive, sometimes painful, transformation that will ultimately make us more responsive and more efficient.”

The inactivation is the first in many steps to transform the 1st COSCOM into the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, a command that will shift from serving under the XVIII Airborne Corps to Third Army.

The 46th Corps Support Group, also known as the “Super Group”, provided Direct Support and General Support Supply, Service, and Maintenance Support to all non-divisional units, reinforcing support for the 82nd Airborne Division, and backup DS/GS support to divisional units assigned or attached to the XVIII Airborne Corps during contingency operations.

“For the past 70 years, the ‘Super Group’ has supported every major operation without fail,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, the 1st COSCOM commanding general. “During all of these combat and humanitarian operations, this remarkable unit accepted each and every mission and executed them superbly.”

The 46th Corps Support Group traces its roots back to 1936, when it was established as the 46th Quartermaster Truck Regiment and activated in 1942 at Camp San Luis Obispo, Ca.

*See SUPERGROUP, page 47*

# Super Group inactivates as part of Army transformation

By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

In a ceremony that will be remembered by thousands of troops from active, reserve and National Guard that served with it, the 46th Corps Support Group, 1st Corps Support Command retired its colors Feb. 15 at the 1st COSCOM Memorial site.

The inactivation of the 46th CSG is part of the Army’s transformation to a modular force.

“Some years ago, our leadership decided that the Army was not properly organized to meet the threat of the 21st century,” said Col.

## 46th CSG in Iraq

### Accomplishments include:

- Supervised the issue of 175,868 cases of Meals, Ready to Eat and 4,414 cases of Unitized Government Rations
- Trained and provided support to the Iraqi 1st Motor Transport Regiment
- Managed the distribution of 98,000,000 gallons of fuel
- Supervised completion of 12,408 direct support maintenance jobs;
- Coordinated and executed 3,363 total convoys
- Supervised the provision of 69,922 showers, 181,370 bundles of laundry, and the repair of 21,133 pieces of clothing
- Provided external support to the Coalition Military Assistance and Training Team (CMATT)
- Provided logistical support across an area spanning 7,150 square miles from the south of Baghdad, to centrally located Logistics Support Area Anaconda (LSAA), to out west inTaqaddum.
- Assisting the recovery of 563 Iraqi vehicles





Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

Paratroopers from the 1st Corps Support Command and various other units exit a CASA CN-235 aircraft during the 1st COSCOM's final airborne operation conducted April 12 at Sicily Drop Zone.



# COSCOM conducts final airborne operation

By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

Warm weather, clear sunny skies and a perfectly good aircraft is all that a paratrooper needs to conduct the perfect airborne operation. For all of the Soldiers of the 1st Corps Support Command, the airborne operation conducted on Apr. 12 was their last opportunity to jump as a COSCOM Soldier. For some, it was their final jump in the Army.

More than 250 Soldiers of the 1st COSCOM took to the skies in a CASA CN-235 aircraft to conduct their final airborne operation at Sicily Drop Zone.

As a unit that is undergoing transformation, the 1st COSCOM will not only lose its airborne status, but the unit will also cease to exist as the 1st COSCOM and transform into the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) after April 18.

“There is a little sadness in as much as this is our last official airborne operation,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, commander of the 1st COSCOM. “As we transform the 1st Corps Support Command into a theater sustainment command we will no longer be an airborne unit, so that comes with some mixed emotions.”

Prior to the jump, Leonard talked with the paratroopers letting them know that despite coming off of parachute status and changing from a maroon to the Army’s standard black beret, it doesn’t change who the Soldiers are.



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**(Top) Master Sgt. Ernesto Nieto, senior medical noncommissioned officer, helps his airborne buddy put on his parachute harness. (Center) Paratroopers from the 1st Corps Support Command enter the CASA CN-235 aircraft prior to jumping. (Below) Paratroopers from the 1st COSCOM observe jumpers exiting a CASA CN-235 aircraft during the 1st COSCOM's final airborne operation conducted Apr. 12 at Sicily Drop Zone.**

“It doesn’t change the airborne spirit that each of us have inside, and so [we will] go forward and move on with this transformation and do what the Army needs for us to do,” he said.

Having over 22 years in the Army, Master Sgt. Ernesto Nieto, the senior medical noncommissioned officer for the 1st COSCOM, is one of many Soldiers who will no longer have the opportunity to jump.

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Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca



# COSCOM farewells CSM

By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

The 1st Corps Support Command, a combat service support command that provides logistical support to the U.S. Army's XVIII Airborne Corps worldwide, bid farewell to its senior ranking Soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen.

Allen, a native of Timmonsville, S.C. took responsibility of the Corps from his predecessor, Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis M. Carey who is currently serving with the Forces Command.

Allen has been deemed the first Combat Service Support command sergeant major to hold the corps position. In the past combat arms Soldiers, which include infantry and artillery specialties held the position. Combat service support military occupation specialties include transportation, quartermaster, ordnance, finance and adjutant.

Although a CSS Soldier by trade, Allen, whose military background qualifies him to run a Corps that encompasses a multitude of MOS, has been in the Army long enough to know that experience, focus and family is the key to success.

"Focusing on your lane of responsibility and your 'piece of the pie' is what makes a person successful," Allen said.

Family and the support that they provide during long work hours and deployments is also the key to success, Allen said.

Throughout the years Allen has held positions that include rifleman, attach helicopter repairman, and first sergeant of an armored cavalry squadron.

During his time serving in the Army, Allen, who entered the Army

in 1975, served with a variety of commands that included infantry, armored cavalry, aviation and various CSS units.

"With this background, I bring a lot of experience to the table," he said.

Additionally, Allen has seen his share of combat. While serving with these units, Allen deployed to countries that included Grenada and Saudi Arabia in support of combat operations.

Allen recently returned from serving a tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the command sergeant major of the 1st COSCOM where the command was responsible for sustaining the force. The mission included transporting fuel, water, ammunition and various classes of supplies.

In addition to these missions, the CSS unit took on a huge force protection mission pulling convoy security and quick reaction force missions; a responsibility normally conducted by infantry and military police units.

"The Army isn't as large as it used to be, so our CSS Soldiers had to fill some voids. We excelled at that and many other challenges," Allen said.

The command, which is normally responsible for about 4,000 Army Soldiers, increased to nearly 28,000 Soldiers, Marines, Airman, Sailors, civilians and Iraqi guardsmen.

"The COSCOM grew and demonstrated its worth during the deployment," Allen said. "Every unit that served under us in Iraq was anxious to receive their COSCOM combat patch."

Combat patches are presented to units that deploy to a combat zone

for three or more months. The patch is normally worn on the right shoulder of an Army uniform beneath, and in some cases, above the American flag.

Additionally, the command was responsible for teaming up with Iraqi forces to help create, train and validate new Iraqi Motor Transport Regiments.

"The COSCOM made history," Allen said. "I am proud to have served with the 1st COSCOM."

Allen now looks ahead in anticipation of increased responsibility in serving as the new XVIII Airborne Corps command sergeant major.

"My family and I look forward to serving in the new position," Allen said. "I am looking forward to becoming a part of the team."

Allen's awards include the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Master Parachutist Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Aviation Crew Chief Badge, Austrian and German Parachutist Badges.

Allen is married and they have two sons.



U.S. Army photo

**Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Allen who was the command sergeant major for the 1st Corps Support Command currently holds the position for the XVIII Airborne Corps.**



# COSCOM memorializes 31 fallen Soldiers

By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

As the rain came down on a cold and solemn morning, hundreds of families, friends and comrades-in-arms gathered to pay their last respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Members of the 1st Corps Support Command paid tribute to 31 Soldiers during a memorial ceremony held Dec. 15 at the 1st COSCOM Memorial site here.

"Today we unveil the Global War On Terrorism Memorial Wall in honor of 31 of our America Soldiers who have proven their willingness to serve the greatest country the world has ever seen," said the commanding general of 1st Corps Support Command at that time, Brig. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine as he addressed members of the audience who attended in order to pay their last respect. "[These Soldiers] paid the ultimate price to



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Previous commander and command sergeant major of the 1st Corps Support Command, Brig. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen, place a memorial wreath during a memorial ceremony to honor 31 fallen COSCOM Soldiers Dec. 15.**

see hope and liberty spread throughout the world and to defend our way of life against any enemy."

Thirty of the fallen Soldiers served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, while one served in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The COSCOM Soldiers honored were made up of active duty, Army National Guard and Reserve Soldiers that have been supporting the Global War on Terrorism since the first deployments to Afghanistan in 2001.

"The wall is made up of stone that will be viewed by countless Soldiers in years to come," Fontaine said.

As the memorial wall was unveiled, 31 personalized plates for each fallen Soldier was revealed.

"Each name on the wall represents the ultimate in patriotism and honor," Fontaine said. "The names displayed are a large reminder of the price that has been paid for freedom. They did their duty and their country is proud of them," he said.

"I appreciate being invited to this ceremony," said Rachel Barrett, the mother of one of the fallen Soldiers, Sgt. James D. Stewart, who was a truck driver for the 57th Transportation Company.

Barrett was one of six families who were able to attend the memorial. Her son deployed under the 561st Corps Support Group, an Army Reserve unit from Omaha, Neb. that served under the 1st COSCOM while in Iraq.

"It is nice to see people come out and support our deployed and fallen Soldiers," Barrett said.

Because her son always kept her informed, Barrett saw the progress, impact and influences Soldiers were accomplishing in aiding Iraqis.

"Unfortunately we don't get to see [in the news] all of the positive that I know is occurring in Iraq," she said. "I would always have to wait to hear about the good things [the Soldiers] were doing from my son."

"I thank everyone for supporting our Soldiers," Barrett said.

Once the ceremony concluded, each family took the opportunity to partake in pencil rubbing their Soldier's name from the memorial wall.

"Each of these warriors is a special hero to us," Fontaine said. "Our heart and the hearts of people across the nation remain with the families of these men and women. Your loss has been great."



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Rachel Barrett, the mother of Sgt. James D. Stewart, a truck driver with the 57th Transportation company, retrieves an impression of her son's name off of the memorial wall during a ceremony to honor the fallen COSCOM Soldiers Dec. 15.**



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

# Safety Day helps Soldiers become more combat effective

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

The 1st Corps Support Command observed a unit-wide Safety Day March 24 at Dahl Physical Fitness Center to aid and encourage Soldiers to keep and maintain safe practices.

With regular safety training being an Army requirement, safety training on a small scale between companies and battalions is common. Making a safety day work for an entire command took more coordination, more time to get ready and more topics to brief the Soldiers on.

"It took about six weeks to put together," said Capt. Tracia Reed, Troop Support Battalion human resource officer-in-charge, and battalion safety officer.

About 10 guest speakers, including 1st COSCOM's commanding general Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, came in to talk to the Soldiers on subjects like privately

owned vehicle safety, driving while intoxicated, speeding dangers, safety belts, drug and alcohol abuse, fire prevention, domestic violence, and suicide prevention," said Reed.

One of the key topics discussed was to vehicular safety since many of the other topics covered could all come from or cause vehicular incidents. A slide show made up of graphic images gave the Soldiers the most realistic view of results from careless driving.

"The presentation about the drunk and unsafe drivers was informative and made me realize how important safe driving is," Pfc. Erich Wells said, an information systems analyst.

"It was sad because in every case it shouldn't have happened. People really need to pay more attention to what's going on around them and what they've been doing," he added. "If they had they could still be here today."



Aside from the indoor presentations, static displays outside in the gym parking lot, such as a mid-sized sedan that was struck in the front and in the rear during an accident, provided Soldiers which a first-hand look what can be the outcome of a severe vehicle crash.

“When I saw the totaled car I just thought, ‘it could have been someone I knew, it could have been someone I loved, it could have been me’,” Wells said.

Besides the car, a water safety boat from A.K. McCallum, the Fort Bragg Game Warden came out and the Spring Lake Fire Department all provided static displays outside, Reed said.

The necessity to discuss a multiple range of issues comes from the connection they can often have on each other like drinking and driving and substance abuse being linked with domestic violence.

“They are all relate to each other,” said Reed. “Naturally when you’re dealing with drugs and alcohol it’s going to impair your ability to get behind the wheel and drive safely so they’re all connected.”

“I always knew that suicide, home violence and drugs were a problem,” said Wells, “but I never really thought how they might all tie in together and how much we can do to prevent them.”

Even though safety training is mandatory, most Soldiers walked

away from the Safety Day events thinking a little more about how they can prevent a lot of issues happening all over Fort Bragg.

“Whenever I get in a car now I’m just going to think of what I can do to make sure that it’s going to be as safe of a ride as possible,” Wells said. “Today really made me think about what goes on and how much we can do to make it better.”

“Even if it helps one Soldier. Someone might have had plans that night to go out drinking and driving but decided to maybe have two beers instead of six,” said Reed, “so it raises and cautions awareness.”

“As [Leonard] said, if it helps one Soldier, our mission is accomplished,” she added.



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

(Left) Pfc. Russell Decker, left, and Spc. Terry Orazi, both of the 1st Corps Support Command color guard, peer into the driver-side window of a wrecked car on display at the 1st COSCOM Safety Day Mar. 24. (Above) Joe Hafner, an accident investigator for the Fort Bragg Directorate of Emergency Services talks to 1st COSCOM Soldier about the dangers of unsafe driving.



## Installation Connelly winners

**By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca**

Each year members of the Army's food service community take the skills and experience that they have developed over the years and put it to the test through a variety of Army competitions.

One competition, in particular, that many units strive to achieve the ultimate title of is the Philip A. Connelly Awards for Excellence in Army Food Service.

The 1st Corps Support Command, a combat service support unit who had taken many titles in the past, continued with their winning streak after it was announced Mar. 14 that they had won in both categories they competed in.

The Philip A. Connelly competition is a competition for food service specialist to participate in. The objective of the competition is to: improve the professionalism of

food service personnel; provide recognition for excellence in preparation and serving food in dining facilities and field kitchens; and provide added incentive to competitive programs of installation and major Army commands by adding a higher level of competition and appropriate recognition.

The 1st COSCOM competed in two of the five categories the competition offers: active duty





Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

large garrison dining facility (which offers food service to 401 or more patrons), held Feb. 22, and the field kitchen service category, held Mar. 8. Field kitchen service is an operation that allows food service specialist to provide food service to Soldiers while operating in an organic environment that includes areas that do not have hard buildings in place.

A conglomerate of 1st COSCOM Soldiers operated the BlackJack dining facility, while Soldiers of the 8th Ordnance Company, 1st Provisional Battalion,

507th Corps Support Group specifically operated the field kitchen with the COSCOM Logistics Branch providing oversight and guidance during the competition.

In competing, this year was different and a little difficult for the 1st COSCOM because they had to not only work with a staff where nearly 50 percent of the personnel were new, but also continue to conduct operations while the command underwent transformation.

The 1st COSCOM is currently transforming into a theater sustainment command in order to get in line with the Army's transformation to a modular force. This transformation, coupled with daily operation and competition prep seemed 'a bridge too far'.

Warrant Officer Henry E. McNeily, the new command food service tech for the 1st COSCOM understood the obstacles ahead of his teams and was ready to take them on.

"It's a lot of hard work and the days are currently jammed pack between working on the transformation of the unit and participating in the competition," McNeily said. "But, I love the fact that I am always kept busy."

With the 1st COSCOM's transformation into the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) and the Connelly competition occurring simultaneously, McNeily had to hit the ground running when he took over the position in January.

As the command food service tech, which is operated at the brigade level or higher, the position is normally held by a senior warrant officer and involves advising the command on food service matters.

"Normally a Soldier with my rank wouldn't be placed in this position, so I am honored and feel nothing

*See CONNELLY, page 48*



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**(Left) Food service specialist from BlackJack Cafe conduct 'Cooks' Mount' prior to being inspected by the judges. (Above) A variety of desserts created for dining facility patrons. (Below) Sgt. Marcus Culver (left), and Spc. Heather E. Krigbaum prepare macaroni and cheese at the 1st COSCOM BlackJack dining facility during the large garrison dining facility category of the Philip A. Connelly for Excellence in Army Food Service Feb. 22.**



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

# Convoy live-fire exercise prepares 330th MCB for deployment

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

As the War on Terror continues, Soldiers throughout the 1st Corps Support Command are constantly preparing to return to the Middle East in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

For the Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 330th Movement Control Battalion, their Convoy Live-Fire Exercise from Feb. 21 to Feb. 23 is taking their lessons learned from their last deployment to Iraq in 2005 and applying it today to help prepare them for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

"We've been training intensively for the past 45 days and this is the culminating event before our deployment to Afghanistan in March," said Lt. Col. Courtney Taylor, 330th MCB commander.

The 164th Movement Control Team, a small active duty unit from Fort McPherson, Ga., was also on hand for the CLFX to join the 330th MCB not just on the range, but in Afghanistan as well.

"We have the headquarters detachment and one of five units joining them in Afghanistan out here as well as some troops from the 18th Contracting Command and other Soldiers deploying to Iraq," said Taylor.

Regardless of where the Soldiers are headed in the future, the training conducted by the 330th MCB incorporated several engagement scenarios to help prepare all the Soldiers for multiple types of encounters and situations.

"We're training on evolving tactics in reacting to improvised



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

**Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 330th Movement Control Battalion, 507th Corps Support Group, 1st Corps Support Command listen as Cpt. Brian Ulloa, HHD commander, gives a convoy brief during the unit's Convoy Live-Fire Exercise.**

explosive devices, ambushes, sniper fire, and integrating MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) and vehicle recovery tasks," Taylor said.

"[The CLFX scenarios] are all scenario driven based on actual operations in OEF," Taylor added.

Although this might sound like the kind of exercise Soldiers would conduct to go to Iraq, the 330th MCB isn't holding training back due to the different nature of logistic operations in Afghanistan.

**See CONVOY, page 49**

**Spring 2006**



# 507th CSG changes command

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

Col. Floyd E. Hudson, Jr., commander of the 507th Corps Support Group (Airborne), 1st Corps Support Command, passed the reigns of his command off to Col. James G. Currie, Jr. during a change-of-command ceremony held Mar. 31 at Seay Field here.

Hudson took command of the 507th CSG in June 2003 and commanded the brigade-sized element, recently redeploying from Balad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit was deployed from November 2004 to October 2005.

"I'm not going to say I'm happy that I'm leaving the unit, but I've had my time in the saddle and time with great Soldiers," Hudson said. "I never thought I'd be leading a brigade in combat like that."

With the conclusion of his command, Hudson will remain on Fort Bragg and continue to serve in

the 1st COSCOM as the unit's deputy commanding officer.

Currie, the incoming commander, will pick up where Hudson left off in commanding the 507th CSG after serving as the 1st COSCOM's operations officer.

Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, commander of the 1st COSCOM thanked Hudson for his three years as commander of the 507th CSG, one of which was granted upon a request from Hudson to stay.

Leonard welcomed Currie who he said was the best choice to take command of the unit during the 1st COSCOM transformation into the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater).

"It's an absolute dream come true," said Currie. "I started here as a lieutenant and it was a phenomenal unit when I was here and now I get to take the command. I'm absolutely ecstatic and eternally thankful."



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

**Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard (left), 1st Corps Support Command commanding general, receives the 507th Corps Support Group colors from the outgoing commander of the 507th CSG, Col. Floyd E. Hudson Jr., during the change of command ceremony Mar. 31 at Seay Field.**

"I can never seem to leave here," he added. "This unit is my Army home. I'm home."



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

**Capt. Craig Christian attempts one of four shots he needs to make in order to win thousands of dollars worth in prizes.**

## COSCOM Soldier gets once in a lifetime opportunity

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

Who would have thought that junk e-mail would actually get you something? For Capt. Craig Christian, a logistics officer for 507th Corps Support Group, 1st Corps Support Command, replying to an email gave him a chance to win big.

During the half-time show for the April 7 Fayetteville Patriots basketball game, Christian had the chance to win a new fully-furnished home, a new 2006 pick up truck, and \$10,000 cash. There was only one catch – make five shotson the court consisting of a lay-up, a foul shot, a top-of-the-key shot, a three-pointer, and a half court toss.

Christian is seen here shooting his first lay-up shot during his attempt to win.

Unfortunately, Christian couldn't make the foul shot within the 24-second time limit he had for each shot but enjoyed the opportunity to try and enjoyed the evening, he said.

# WARRIOR ETHOS

## *Logistics command takes combatives to next level*

By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

While some Soldiers on Fort Bragg are conducting conventional physical training such as long distance running or general calisthenics, every Wednesday morning at Dahl Gymnasium, members of the 1st Corps Support Command spend their time conducting PT in a unique way.

Like some units that have incorporated combatives such as hand-to-hand combat into their training, the 1st COSCOM, who

also began their training in this manner, have since expanded on a different level.

"It is called escrima," said Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, commander of the 1st COSCOM. "And we are tapping into it in order to work on developing the 'warrior spirit' in our Soldiers."

With one thick stick in each hand, striking through the air in a variety of patterns and then pairing up with a partner, the Soldiers of the 1st COSCOM

conduct this training under the instruction and watchful eye of Leonard.

Escrima, also known as Arnis de Manos or Filipino stick fighting, dates back to the 1500s when Spanish rule first came to the Philippines. Filipinos taught this martial art form as a recreational activity and for a selected few as combat training. After the Spanish banned the teaching of escrima, it was taught as a clandestine art form secretly and placed to music disguising it as a dance.

Spanish soldiers later realized that the martial art form hadn't died—every time revolts occurred.

Passed down from generation to generation, the martial art form has evolved and through migration traveled to a variety of countries.

"There are two parts to this (training) and why we are doing it. The first is, we are searching for the warriors out there," Leonard said.

In keeping with the Army wide focus on Warrior Ethos, which combative training remains a huge part of, Leonard turned his unit onto this form of self-defense.

The second part, Leonard said, is to learn to train your mind and eyes to pick up on movement at a fast pace.

"If your body and eyes can get accustomed to the quick movement, then when attacked, your eyes and your body will know exactly what to do," Leonard said. "Combat or fighting is rarely a scripted event and so you are better served to have a series of techniques, a tool bag, if you will, that you can draw on."

Leonard has been practicing the martial art form since the age of 13. He has been teaching it for the past 10 years. He has taught at the battalion and brigade level throughout his career and more recently while deployed in support

*See COMBATIVE, page 20*



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Two Soldiers from the Corps Distribution Command conduct hand-to-hand combat training known as LINES during Wednesday morning "Warrior PT".**





Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**(Left) Master Sgt. Pamela Gaines** logistics branch supply noncommissioned officer-in-charge and **Capt. Tennille Gladden**, assistant comptroller, participates in Escrima training, also known as Filipino stick fighting during Wednesday's "Warrior PT" at Dahl Gymnasium.



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Soldiers from the 1st Corps Support Command conduct Escrima training, also known as Filipino stick fighting, at Dahl Gymnasium Wednesday mornings. Using two sticks the Soldiers learn how to effectively strike at and defend themselves from their opponent.**

***COMBATIVE, from Page 18***

of Operation Iraq Freedom while in Kuwait.

“The training is fun and informative,” said Master Sgt. Pamela Gaines, Logistics Branch supply noncommissioned officer-in-charge. “There is no such thing as a fair fight everything comes from the element of surprise.”

Gaines, like many other members of the command, hope to continue with the training.

“The training helps to make you better prepared. I think that it is nice that the general takes his time out to share something unique and that is going to help us.”

While some critics might question when would a Soldier have the opportunity to pick up a stick to fight or what if there are bullets coming their way? Leonard

believes that escrima goes far beyond the physical and more so mentally prepares the Soldiers.



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**(Right) Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, commander of the 1st Corps Support Command demonstrates Escrima techniques with Lt. Col. Therrel Brown, 1st COSCOM’s comptroller at Dahl Gymnasium here. Leonard has been practicing the martial art form since age 13.**

“When you are faced in a tough and tight situation the question is ‘how are you going to survive?’ The answer is simple—instinct. If you are scared and someone attacks you, you will have a normal instinctive reaction,” he said. “The enemy always gets a vote and we want to be prepared for that.”



# Last of the Corps aviation maintenance units inactivates

By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

"It is with mixed emotions that I stand here today," said Lt. Col. Terence W. Reeves, commander of 4th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, 507th Corps Support Group. "I am humbled to be part of such a great legacy but also sad that I must be the one to inactivate this battalion and retire its colors."

After almost 40 years of active service, members of 4th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt. furled its colors during an inactivation ceremony on Simmons Army Airfield's aviation memorial site April 21.

The battalion is not only the last units to inactivate after serving under the 1st COSCOM, which inactivated and transformed into the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) April 18, but also it inactivated as the last of the corps aviations maintenance battalions to exist.

"Today we are witnessing an important moment in the history of Army Aviation," Reeves said. "This [ceremony] marks the end of aviation maintenance under the 1st COSCOM and (Division Support Command) here at Simmons Army Airfield."

Activated July 1, 1968 in Vietnam, the aviation battalion was once an element of the 101st Airborne Division and assigned to Fort Campbell, Ky. where it remained until 1987. While assigned to the 101st Abn. Div., its primary aircraft were CH-47 Chinooks.

In October 1988, the unit was assigned to VII Corps at Stuttgart, Germany where the unit operated and maintained the UH-1 Huey, OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, C-12 Huron and the U-21 Ute. The aviation battalion saw more combat operations when it



Courtesy photo

**Lt. Col. Terence Reeves (Right), Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Fox, command team for the 4th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment furl the unit's colors during the inactivation ceremony April 21.**

deployed to Saudi Arabia in December 1990 for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After returning to Germany from its combat mission, the battalion inactivated in January 1993 and was then later reactivated in October 1995 at Fort Bragg.

While at Fort Bragg, the battalion sent an aviation maintenance company to Kosovo and Bosnia in 1999.

In February 2003 the unit deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where it provided aviation maintenance support at both Bagram and Kandahar Airfield, and then deployed once again in December 2004 in support of Operation Iraq Freedom.

While in Iraq the unit provided aviation maintenance and support

for the 18th Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, 42nd ID and all aircraft assigned to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force.

"[The battalion] has performed superbly in its (38) year history," said Col. James Currie, commander of the 507th CSG. "It set an ever rising bar as the standards for performance of its Soldiers, these maintainers of the aerial chariots we have come to depend upon. It is truly a record of incredible achievement and excellence."

Just recently, the battalion was awarded the Army Aviation Association of America's Robert M. Leich Award at a ceremony held in Nashville, Tn. The AAAA awards program recognizes outstanding achievements in Army Aviation in a variety of areas to include outstanding contribution to Army aviation.

The Soldiers of the 4th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt. has once again demonstrated the spirit, the drive and 'never quit' attitude that the unit has always been known for, Currie said.

Other awards achieved by the unit includes the Valorous Unit Award, two Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor medals and First Class for actions in Vietnam and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award earned for actions in Afghanistan.

"I have been fortunate and blessed to have been given the honor to lead the talented Soldiers of this organization for the past 32 months," Reeves said. "[These Soldiers] have set a high mark for excellence that will not be forgotten."





Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

**Lt. Gen. Steven Whitcomb (left), Third U.S. Army and CENTCOM commanding general, Command Sgt. Maj. Luis Lopez, 1st COSCOM and 1st TSC command sergeant major, and Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard (right), 1st COSCOM and 1st TSC commanding general, unfurl the 1st TSC colors during the activation portion of the 1st COSCOM Inactivation/1st TSC Activation Ceremony April 18 at Seay Field here.**



# From 1st Log to 1st COSCOM to 1st TSC

## *Logistical command transform to support modular force*

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

After nearly 34 years of logistical support to the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, the 1st Corps Support Command furled its colors during the 1st COSCOM Inactivation Ceremony Apr. 18 at Seay Field here marking the end of an era, and the birth of a new one.

Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard, the 1st COSCOM commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Luis Lopez, the 1st COSCOM command sergeant major, were joined by the commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, Lt. Gen. John R. Vines for the retirement of the 1st COSCOM colors.

"The men and women of the 1st COSCOM have performed bravely," said Vines in an address to the Soldiers of the former 1st COSCOM before retiring the colors. "The 1st COSCOM has supported brilliantly the policies of our nation, the strategies and operations that our military has been tasked to support."

Moments after the 1st COSCOM colors were furled, Lt. Gen. Steven Whitcomb, Third U.S. Army and U.S. Army Central Command commander, joined Leonard and Lopez in unfurling colors never before seen during the activation of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater).

The furling and unfurling of unit colors was much more than a symbol of the Army's transformation. The Soldiers of the former 1st COSCOM will be taking part in the birth of a new and unprecedented support unit.

The 1st TSC is the first theater sustainment command to exist in the active duty Army, said Col. Ferdinand Samonte, 1st TSC chief operations officer.

"There's no manual or doctrine on being a theater sustainment

command," he said. "For the young Soldiers, they will be at the forefront of Army change."

As the 1st TSC, logisticians of the former 1st COSCOM will no longer be supporting the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg as it has been doing since June 1972, but will instead provide logistical oversight in a new area of responsibility.

"Our mission will be the logistics for all of the [U.S. Army Central Command theater of operations]," said Samonte. "Our responsibility will begin in the Horn of Africa all the way to Afghanistan."

The CENTCOM Theater, which falls under the control of the Third Army from Fort McPherson, Ga., includes troops stationed in Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Israel, and other Middle Eastern nations.

"We're going from several thousand Soldiers down to about 400," said Samonte.

While deployed, the Soldiers of the 1st TSC will not actually conduct logistical operations as they did when they were Soldiers of the 1st COSCOM. Their primary mission will be to supervise, observe and contribute

*Continued on next page*



U.S. Army photo

**Soldiers from the 1st COSCOM, then called the 1st Logistical Command, return from Vietnam aboard the U.S.N.S. Gen. W.H. Gordon sailing from LaPallice, France to Charleston, S.C. Aug. 12, 1962. With a long lineage, the 1st Corps Support Command involvement in conflicts and combat operations over the years also includes the Berlin Crisis, Operation Urgent Fury, Operation Just Cause, and Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.**



U.S. Army photo

**Soldiers of the 45th Surgical Hospital, 1st Logistical Command monitor the inflation of a Medical Unit Self-contained Transportable (MUST) shelter at Tay Ninh, Vietnam in 1966. The hospital wards were erected in a few minutes by inflating a series of interconnected tubes with air pressure from a jet engine-powered utility pack.**

***Continued from previous page***

knowledge from experience to the other logistic units deploying to the CENTCOM theater of operations, said Samonte.

***“[The 1st COSCOM] always got the job done. I enjoyed being a part of that.”***

**-Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Billy Flanagan  
189th Corps Support Battalion**

The transformation from a COSCOM into a TSC isn't only affecting the Soldiers of the unit, but also of those from other units stationed on Fort Bragg.

Units like the former 46th Corps Support Group and the Corps Distribution Command, which were once part of the 1st COSCOM but were inactivated as part of the transformation, both were key players in the support of units on Fort Bragg. Now the XVIII Airborne Corps will receive most of its logistical support from the 507th CSG, which will continue to

receive leadership from the 1st TSC until it becomes an independent corps asset in October 2006.

Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) James Washington, command sergeant major of the 507th CSG from 1992 through 1997, said he was sad to see the 1st COSCOM go away.

“I hate to see them leave,” said Washington,” but it’s time for change due to the war situation and they’re going to support the Middle East.”

“The Army could have gone to [the 13th COSCOM], III Corps in Fort Hood, Texas, but they came for the 1st COSCOM instead,” he added.

Other 1st COSCOM veterans came to the ceremony to witness the transformation, and shared the same bittersweet emotions.

“[The 1st COSCOM] always got the job done. I enjoyed being a part of that,” said Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Billy Flanagan, a former maintenance officer from the 189th Corps Support Battalion who served with the 1st COSCOM at the end of World War II and the Korean War. “I hate to see them go, but I want to see the transformation.”

The most obvious change to the Soldiers of the 1st TSC will be that the former 1st COSCOM’s airborne status will not be joining the 1st TSC after the



transformation. This means the Soldiers of the 1st TSC will don the standard black beret worn by the majority of Soldiers in the Army instead of the maroon beret worn by the Soldiers of airborne units as well as the loss of the airborne tab above the what was once the 1st COSCOM patch.

“It’s emotional because the [Soldiers] are switching from the maroon beret to the black beret,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen, XVIII Airborne Corps and previous 1st COSCOM command sergeant major.

“A lot of our guys came up to me said ‘You left because you saw this coming’,” he added with a laugh, but he was still sadden by the inactivation of the 1st COSCOM and the XVIII Airborne Corps’ loss.

“We’re losing an asset,” Allen said, “but we’ll see how it goes.”

“Today as we write the last few sentences in the final chapter of the history of the 1st COSCOM, we’ll hear the last shout of the old, and the cry of the new,” said Leonard. “It is fitting that as the 1st COSCOM takes its last bow here at Fort Bragg - it breathes life

into the 1st [TSC] of the Third Army and Southwest Asia.”



U.S. Army photo

**Two 1st Corps Support Command mechanics conduct maintenance on a tire during Operation Desert Storm.**

## Vietnam Expedition

Defense  
Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive, Phase I  
Counteroffensive, Phase III  
Tet Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive, Phase V  
Counteroffensive, Phase VI  
Tet 69/ Counteroffensive  
Summer- Fall 1969  
Winter- Spring 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Counteroffensive, Phase VII

## Armed Forces

Panama

## Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait  
Cease Fire  
Operation Enduring Freedom  
Operation Iraqi Freedom

## Other

Berlin Crisis  
Operation Urgent Fury  
Operation Uphold Democracy  
Operation Just Cause  
Operation Restore Hope  
Operation Provide Refuge

## Humanitarian

St. Croix (Hurricane Hugo)  
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (Haitian Migrants)  
Florida, U.S.A. (Hurricane Hugo)  
U.S. Virgin Islands (Hurricane Diaster Relief)  
Central America (Hurricane Mitch)



# SHARP SHOOTER



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

(Clockwise) Two riggers from the 647th Quartermaster Company prepare a heavy drop parachute to be rigged. Caesar Mustelier of the 46th Corps Support Group and Willie Ardin, both members of the band 'GrayFase' open up for Black Jack Unplugged Mar. 16. A 1st COSCOM Alumni and his spouse look at a photographic exhibit of COSCOM operations since the Vietnam Era during the 1st COSCOM alumni social held April 17. Spc. Daniel Warner (left), and Staff Sgt. Cedric McCabe (middle), food service specialists for the 8th Ordnance Company, prepare food while Willie Meeks (right), the evaluator for installation food services, observes during the Philip A. Connelly Field Kitchen Competition Mar. 8. A German soldier present Sgt. Rodolfo Villafranco, a protocol soldier for the 1st COSCOM, with foreign airborne wings Dec. 10 at a German and Irish airborne operation on Sicily Drop Zone. Soldiers and family members from the 507th Corps Support Group sit in the stands of Dahl Gymnasium during a deployment ceremony for one of its subordinate units. Members of South Camp Aviation Platoon, 1st Support Battalion, Task Force Sinai, pose in front of the last of the UH-1 Huey they once piloted to conduct their missions Mar. 31. Col. Floyd E. Hudson (left), 1st TSC's deputy commander, presents Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Morris (middle), and Spc. Matthew Flores, both food service specialists, with the award for Fort Bragg Superior DFAC for 2nd quarter fiscal year 2006 and Culinary Specialist of the Quarter for 2nd quarter fiscal year 2006 at the Blackjack Café May 12.







Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

# COSCOM says good-bye to welcomes 60s

Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

The last of the UH-1 Huey conducts a final flyby Mar. 30. Members of the Task Force Sinai, 1st Corps Support Command once solely depended on the UH-1 Huey to conduct resupply, medical evacuation and other air operations.







# Hueys,

**By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca**

Members of the South Camp Aviation Platoon, 1st Support Battalion, Task Force Sinai, 1st Corps Support Command bid farewell to the last of the UH-1 Huey Mar. 30 at South Camp, Sinai, Egypt.

The Soldiers watched in silence, some waving goodbye, as the crewmembers in the aircraft took flight.

The UH-1 Huey, an aircraft that dates back to the Vietnam Era, which once conducted resupply and medical evacuation missions for the unit was replaced

by the UH-60 Black Hawks; which arrived to the unit in December and January from Fort Bragg.

"The Soldiers are fond of the [Huey] because it has been in the Army's inventory for quite some years," said Capt. David J. Scooler, the platoon leader for the South Camp Aviation Platoon. "[This Huey] is the last one leaving South Camp and is the aircraft that the Soldiers are used to [in conducting this mission]," he said.

Chief Warrant Officer Richard G. Willis, a test pilot and maintenance examiner for the UH-1 Huey, was personally involved in the distribution of the Hueys when they first arrived to the unit in 1982. Back then, the task organization of the unit was far different than what it looks like today.

"We were an 82nd (Airborne Division) aviation unit back then that fell directly under the Multinational Force and Observers," Willis said.

After the reorganization that took place in the 1990s, the unit was placed under 1st COSCOM, a Fort Bragg unit, to conduct MFO Operations. The MFO consists of 11 national contingents including the U.S. Army peacekeepers.

The MFO mission consists of foreign contingents and U.S. Army peacekeepers assisting in the enforcement of the Egyptian-Israeli 1979 Camp David Peace Accords.

Willis and a committee of officers and noncommissioned officers were sent to the Sinai to determine how well the Hueys would operate in a desert environment and what it would take to run the air operations. This mission occurred during the first of many tours he would spend here in the Sinai.

Willis, who entered the Army in 1968, has an extensive background with the UH-1 Huey having had the opportunity to work with the aircraft during the Vietnam and post Vietnam era. His subject matter expertise was brought to the table again when it was time to bring the aircraft on board.

"I was sent to test fly the aircraft at Corpus Christi, Texas and later helped assemble them during my second tour in the Sinai," Willis said. "I played a very minor role in everything."

Once the aircraft was in place, Willis returned back to the States.

Willis was called upon once again by the Army to provide his expertise now that the Hueys were being replaced with UH-60 Black Hawks.

"I got the call that the Black Hawks were transitioning in. If you would have asked me if this was going to happen back in 1982, I would have told

*Continued on next page*

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you probably not,” Willis said. “In my personal opinion, the UH-1 fits the bill for this operation.”

However, Willis recognizes that as time changes so does the need for equipment that is more technologically advanced.

“Although the Army has a well and proven product with the Huey, the aircraft doesn’t have the capability to be upgraded to today’s standard, so, it is time to retire the Huey,” Willis said.

Scooler, who has logged over 500 hours flying the Black Hawk, although fond of the prestige of the Huey, agrees and prefers the newer aircraft.

“Since the Black Hawks arrived, the workload is less,” he said.

Members of 1st Battalion, 124th Cavalry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division of the Texas National Guard know all too well how the change in aircraft has impacted their mission. As a team of



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**An aviator from the Aviation Platoon, 1st Support Battalion, Task Force Sinai, 1st Corps Support Command conducts final maintenance checks on the last of the UH-1 Hueys prior to its leaving the area of operation. Replaced by the UH-60 Black Hawk, the Huey, an aircraft that dates back to the Vietnam Era, was used by the unit to conduct missions that include medical evacuations and resupply operations.**

Soldiers that rotate out on a regular basis at an undisclosed observation post in the region, these

infantrymen have seen a huge change in the aircraft’s mission.

“At the [OP], everything has to come in by air—water, food, fuel, you name it,” said Staff Sgt. James D. Smith, a 39-year-old Texan from San Angelo. “We are totally dependant upon air operations.”

Smith and his team of Soldiers at the observation post welcomed the Black Hawks with open arms.

“Our time between the [supply] drops has been cut in half because the Black Hawks are a lot faster and can easily carry more.

As the last of the UH-1 Huey aircraft left South Camp, pilots and aircrew members from the 1st COSCOM gazed quietly at the iron bird that was once their only mode of conducting air operations.

“There goes that last of the Hueys leaving [South Camp],” Scooler, said in a somber voice as the aircraft conducted a final flyby for its pilots and crew chiefs on the ground.



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Aviators from the Aviation Platoon, 1st Support Battalion, Task Force Sinai, 1st Corps Support Command conduct resupply operations using newly issued UH-60 Black Hawks with members of the 1st Battalion, 124th Cavalry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, Texas National Guard at an undisclosed observation post.**



# Fighting the summer heat

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

Springtime means more than just the return of leaves, birds and shorts. It also means that another hot and humid North Carolina summer is right around the corner.

For many Soldiers of the 1st Corps Support Command, this will be the first summer back in the U.S. following their recent deployment to Iraq. Although a partly cloudy 95-degree day isn't nearly as bad as a cloudless 130-degree day, it's important to remember that heat injuries can occur anytime and anywhere, regardless of comparable differences between the weather here and in Iraq.

Despite annual training requirements mandated by the Army on heat injuries, it's important for commanders to stress safe practices in environments that can prompt heat injuries, which consist of Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, and Heat Stroke.

Heat Cramps are the first of the heat injuries in terms of severity, although it shouldn't be taken lightly since it can often lead to other heat injuries.

During Heat Cramps, the arms, legs and/or abdominal region of a Soldier become cramped. Heat Cramps occur as a result of dehydration. Without water, the body is unable to properly sweat which is a natural cooling process.

Heat Exhaustion is more severe than Heat Cramps, and should be treated as such. Common symptoms of Heat Exhaustion include Heat Cramps, headache, weak feeling, dizziness, feeling faint, profuse sweating, and elevated body temperatures. Not every symptom needs to be present to diagnose a Heat Exhaustion, and should be treated quickly to prevent Heat Stroke.

Again, dehydration is to blame for this heat injury. Without the evaporation of the sweat, it becomes useless as the body's natural cooling agent. Humidity can drastically slow the evaporation process since the air is already saturated with moisture. This can be specifically dangerous to Soldiers on Fort Bragg since the weather has a history of being extremely humid.

The most extreme and also deadliest of the heat injuries is the Heat Stroke. This condition is a result of extreme dehydration or when Heat Cramps and Heat Exhaustion are left untreated. Symptoms include



Graphic by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

elevated body temperature, comatose, stopped sweating, weakness, rapid pulse, and delirious behavior. Of the three, Heat Stroke is the most severe and can cause permanent damage to the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, and other organs and can also result in death, regardless of medical attention.

The best and easiest way to defend against heat injuries is to stay hydrated at all times. Individuals are recommended to drink at least eight 8-ounce glasses of water daily for normal activities. Commercial sports drinks should also be included in fluid intake to replenish natural salts that are lost while sweating.

Soldiers can also prevent heat injuries by wearing loose, lightweight clothing to allow for good air circulation and to conserve energy while working. Wet clothing can cool the body better so Soldier should also avoid changing into dry clothes if wet.

Avoiding sunburn by using sun block can also prevent heat injuries since sun burnt skin can impair the body's ability to sweat properly.

Getting plenty of rest and staying away from alcohol a day before outdoor activity can contribute to proper heat injury prevention. Most importantly however, Soldiers need to be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat injuries and know how to treat them, and above all else, look after their buddy so that treatment won't be required.

(Editor's note: Information for this article was pulled from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/>)

# BlackJack Action Plan:

*Commanding general creates task force for Soldiers*

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

A lot of old challenges have been scrutinized during the transformation process of the 1st Corps Support Command into the 1st Sustainment

Command (Theater).

The resolution of some issues often generates others,

and the 1st

COSCOM

command has

responded.

The Blackjack Action plan is a system of different task forces generated by Brig. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard,

commanding general of the 1st COSCOM, to help combat these issues and to add a proactive approach to dealing with these new challenges.

"The concept is that we'll be able to use all of the talent available instead of the hierarchal talent," said Leonard. "This allows input from other places and more participation."

The intent of the task forces is to provide cross talk between the 1st COSCOM sections and ranks, which allows a much wider range of interaction between Soldiers of all ranks.

The five task forces that

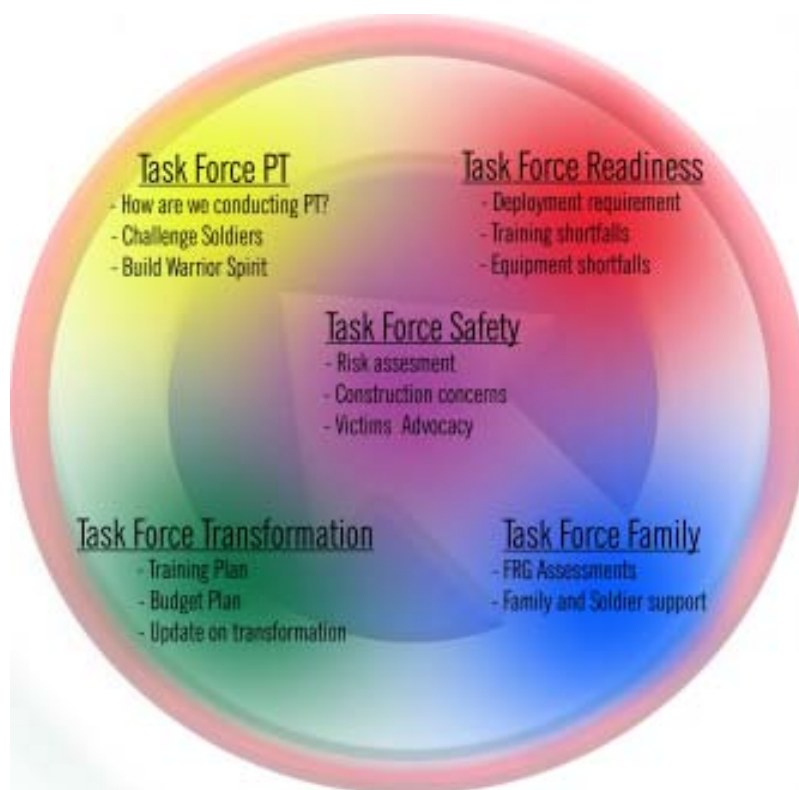
Leonard has created are Task Force Transformation, Task Force Safety, Task Force Family, and Task Force Readiness, which are all lead by colonels, and Task Force Physical Training headed by a

get away from going through the various levels of the command for a good idea to happen."

Normally if a specialist had an issue he'd want to take to the CG, the complaint would have to be

given to that Soldier's platoon sergeant, and then travel to the company first sergeant, then to the commander, then to the battalion, brigade and unit commands. The task force, which are represented by a mix of ranks and positions ranges from private to colonel, allows that idea to travel to a high ranking expert in little to no time.

The five or six representatives then brief the CG as a whole on what their issue is, allowing even the lowest ranking Soldier to have a voice to be heard by the CG.



Graphic by Spc. Jerome Bishop

**Within the BlackJack Action Plan each Task Force operates as it own, however each plays a vital role in interacting with each other in order to combat any challenges within the command that may**

command sergeant major.

"The usual Army [command] structure is group to battalion, battalion to company, company to supervisor, and then supervisor to the Soldiers," said Leonard. "In order for a good idea to get to a Soldier it has to go a long way."

"We work more circular," he added. "The idea is that I want to

## Task Force Transformation

Task Force Transformation is designed to help Soldiers cope with the evolving specifications of becoming a theater support command. At the same time, Task Force Transformation allows Soldiers to provide input, which may improve situations regarding the transformation.



“Beyond the date of our ceremony we need to make sure that nothing fails due to logistics.” Leonard said. “This task force looks at all the things we’ll need in order to be the TSC.”

The concept of becoming a theater sustainment command means that unlike the 1st COSCOM’s mission of supporting the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, the 1st TSC will support a theater instead. Following the transformation, the 1st TSC will be responsible for all logistical units that fall under the U.S. Army Central Command.

The 1st TSC will not deploy for a year and conduct missions as it did when it was the 1st COSCOM. Instead, teams will deploy for four to six month stints and provide guidance and advisement for the logistic units who deploy to the Middle East, said Col. Ferdinand Samonte, 1st COSCOM chief operations officer and leader of Task Force Transformation.

The 1st COSCOM leadership wants to make sure that there is always someone monitoring the transformation situation to make sure mistakes aren’t made that could jeopardize the mission, he added.

Samonte is responsible for dealing with issues that surface as a result of the transformation.

“My mission is to keep the CG informed on the transformation situation and make sure I’m keeping up with all the changes and make sure that all the agencies that will be working with us know what to expect when we transform into the 1st TSC,” he said.

Samonte’s task force has a weekly committee that presents findings and ideas to Leonard.

“He gets to meet twice a month with a task force committee which includes the Soldier and his

supervisor, and he actually gets to see how a young Soldier sees the 1st COSCOM and what the Soldier is thinking too,” Samonte said. “This enables the CG to sit down and talk to the younger Soldiers.”

“The committee itself will have a lot of ranks in there. We get a bunch of briefings from higher headquarters and we lay it out from the higher level to how it fits in with younger Soldiers,” he added.

The idea of transforming into another unit may be new and intimidating at first, but Task Force Transformation is making sure that whatever can be done to make things better, will be done.

“Since we’re the first theater sustainment command to be stood up by the Army, there’s no manual or doctrine. There’s no ‘level 10’ manual on the TSC. This is all strategic thinking that’s lead us to the 1st TSC,” Samonte said. “We’re still young in it but I’d say in the next quarter when we get these rolling, we’ll see a lot more feedback coming our way.”

#### **Task Force Family**

Task Force Family was established to ensure that 1st



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Task Force Family was established to ensure that 1st COSCOM families are kept informed on events occurring throughout the unit as well as providing means to get this information.**

COSCOM families are kept informed on events occurring throughout the unit as well as providing means to get this information.

“We know that strong families sustain our ability to deploy and conduct our mission,” said Leonard.

“Task Force Family is to make sure that the families of the Soldiers are included and incorporated at the training and mission cycle for the 1st COSCOM,” said Chap. (Col.) David Reese, 1st COSCOM chaplain and leader of Task Force Family. “We will kind of oversee and facilitate anything involved with family readiness.”

*Continued on next page*

***Continued from previous page***

The 1st COSCOM Family Readiness Group is a major contributor to the Task Force Family mission. With a highly qualified staff, the 1st COSCOM FRG already has a reputation for being there for the Soldiers and their families.

“One of the most visible things is the FRGs,” said Reese. “They’re very visible at deployments and redeployments and that’s probably one of the most visible kinds of events. Some of the [less visible] events are the FRG meetings and activities that take place behind the scenes.”

Even before the establishment of the task force, the FRG has been on the forefront of providing families with important information from the command.

“The key leaders and FRG

volunteers will periodically have meetings to discuss and prepare for deployments and related matters,” Reese said.

No matter how well something works, however, they’re always room for improvement. Leonard’s goal for a better unit included the FRG.

“We also want to build a Family Readiness Center of Excellence,” he said. “The Army Community Service will be there and if people need to, they have someone to talk with in there.”

The FRCE is more than just a consolidated information hub, but also will eventually include the 1st COSCOM day care facility, making it easier for spouses with young children to come on base and utilize FRG talents, Leonard said.

“It’s supports communication flow and facilitates a better

understanding of the deployment cycle,” said Reese. “Anything that helps facilitate these issues is a good thing.”

**Task Force PT**

As with every unit in the Army, physical fitness is among the most important of priorities. Task Force Physical Training was established to ensure that PT will be conducted to it’s maximum potential, as well as allow for improved methods of conducting it to be introduced.

“The purpose of the PT Task Force is to reorient all our Soldiers toward fitness,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Luis Lopez, 1st COSCOM command sergeant major and leader of Task Force PT.

Task Force PT isn’t only looking at making sure PT is done effectively and efficiently, but also at ways that it could be improved.



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Task Force PT isn’t only looking at making sure PT is done effectively and efficiently, but also at ways that it could be improved.**



“The Task Force PT also looks at PT in reference to unique jobs,” said Leonard. “We have a lot of mandated PT, but I’m wondering what kind of PT we need to do our job better.”

“I want the Soldiers to challenge themselves,” he added. “I want PT

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***“We’re trying to get away from the “1-2-3” of push-ups, sit-ups and two-mile run and get into more circuit training and more MOS oriented PT.”***

-Command Sgt. Maj. Luis Lopez

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to be challenging and interesting.”

One of the ideas already being looked into requires Soldiers to perform exercises that are not normally performed during basic combat training and advanced individual training.

“We’re trying to get away from the “1-2-3” of push-ups, sit-ups and two-mile run and get into more circuit training and more MOS oriented PT,” said Lopez. “For example, trying to get loadmasters to load and unload pallets for PT.”

A generic “plug and play” program is currently in the works so units can mix and match different exercises that best suit the physical needs of that unit, Lopez said.

Unit PT provides the Soldier with much more than just a work out, but also with valuable skills that enlisted Soldiers need to know to be an NCO.

“I have to make sure that Soldiers are ready to go to PLDC and they can’t go there by going to the gym,” Lopez said. “They can’t see the formation and the movements that are done everyday

because they’re going to the gym.”

Since the task forces are still new, not every challenge has been dissolved within each task force. Task Force PT is no exception.

“In the beginning it will be challenging but good leadership and good NCO’s will make it happen,” Lopez said.

#### **Task Force Safety**

The wellbeing of a Soldier is the most important thing that can be taken into consideration when preparing to conduct a mission. Task Force Safety was established to make sure that unsafe practices are avoided.

“Their mission is to assess a consistent awareness of the safety in the 1st COSCOM area,” said Leonard. “In our scope of safety, it’s a wide open topic.”

“Safety is the top quality of life issue for our command and our commanding general and that’s one of the things the CG stressed,” said Col. Ronda Urey, 1st COSCOM support operations officer.

“Everything you turn to is related to safety so I guess that’s why it is in the center of the Blackjack Action Plan,” Urey said. “No mission or training event is important enough to risk a Soldier’s life and at the same time we have to take certain risks to get us ready for deployments.”

Observing safety on base is an ongoing effort, and reaches a Soldier in every aspect of his or her professional career.

With the increased amount of construction taking place in the 1st COSCOM area, increased safety during PT hours is getting a lot of attention.

“One of the CG’s first actions was to make sure the run routes during PT are safe and that we don’t lose a Soldier from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.,” said Urey.

Safety is also one of the few concerns that follow a Soldier home after a day of work. Several important issues can be combated that affect Soldiers off base as well as on base.

“I think it’s going to do a lot with some issues that need more emphasis than others like if there’s DUIs more than anything that month,” said Urey.

“The CG wants the Task Force Safety to look at domestic violence and focus on prevention and not just be reactive,” she added. “We need to get proactive.”

“One of our biggest concerns was domestic violence,” said Leonard “After the recent deployment some of our Soldiers are the victims of domestic violence. I want Task Force Safety to look at patterns and think ‘How can we help Soldiers not become a victim’.”

Battling unsafe practices will

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***“Safety is the top quality of life issue for our command and our commanding general and that’s one of the things the CG stressed.”***

-Col. Ronda Urey

---

always be an ongoing struggle, but awareness will help prevent these unfortunate incidents from taking place where a Soldier and his or her family should feel safest.

“Families need a safe environment to live in at home, but sometimes it’s not always about the married Soldiers. The single Soldiers also need a safe

*See TF, page 50*

# Soldiers participate in national coffee convention

By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

Five Soldiers from the 1st Corps Support Command participated in the Annual Specialty Coffee Association of America Convention, Exhibition and Baristas Competition held Apr 7-10 in Charlotte, N.C.

The national convention, which rotates to different states each year, was the first time a military organization took part in the convention.

The SCAA is the trade association for the specialty coffee industry where its primary goal is to set the industry's standards for growing, roasting and brewing coffee. SCAA members include coffee producers, exporters, importers, roasters, producers, and manufacturers of coffee equipment and products relating to the trade.

"The message is simple," said Maj. Joe Izaguirre, deputy intelligence officer for the 1st COSCOM. "We are here to say thanks to the greater coffee community for their unprecedented support to our deployed servicemen and woman."

The collective efforts and generosity of the coffee community helped bring not only a great cup of coffee to Soldiers in Iraq, but also a social environment by which they could enjoy a touch of home, he said.

Under a standing ovation, the group of Soldiers presented an Army Certificate of Appreciation to the president of the SCAA.

While deployed to Iraq, Izaguirre and a team of about seven Soldiers established BlackJack Java, a coffee shop named after the unit's mascot. These Soldiers operated out of a small trailer roasting fresh green coffee beans and offered a variety of coffee beverages to Soldiers in order to boost their morale while deployed to the combat zone.

Word quickly got out about the operation and it resulted in a swarm of support from the coffee industry. The Soldiers were invited by the

important, for their efforts while deployed in support of OIF III. A baristas is a title given to someone who has mastered the art of making espresso beverages.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Sgt. Heather Thomas. "I have a passion for coffee and a passion for learning."

What Thomas really enjoyed most about the experience and the overall operation was boosting the Soldier's morale.

"Which is why I am [perfecting this trade]," she added.

"The goal here is to really continue to improve Soldier morale here. And we want to instead of just having your standard brew of coffee, try to bring a little touch of home within the Army," Izaguirre said.

And this comes at no cost to taxpayers.

"None of this is on Uncle Sam's dime," Izaguirre said.

BlackJack Java continues to get its

funding through donations.

"The big picture? As we transform [to a modular force], and have a larger area of operation, we want to have these little coffee roasting deployment packages and send them forward so we can send them forward to Iraq, Afghanistan and any where else Soldiers are needed," he said. "Balad, (Iraq) was just the start."



Courtesy photo

**Sergeants Derrick and Heather Thomas, food service specialists with the Corps Distribution Command, 1st Corps Support Command became interested in boosting Soldiers' morale using a common product in a unique way.**

SCAA to tell their story and participate in the national event.

Two of the soldiers, Sgt. Heather Thomas and Sgt. Derrick Thomas, both food service specialists for the Corps Distribution Command, 1st COSCOM, were certified and earned honorary barista status from the Baristas Guild of America for their performance in espresso preparation at the event, but more



# Rigger shines amongst peers

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

It's been said that big things come in small packages. In the case of 5-foot-1, 108 pound Staff Sgt. Crystal Gonzalez, a parachute rigger with the 647th Quartermaster Company, 530th S & S Battalion, 507th Corps Support Group, 1st Corps Support Command, size has nothing to do with it.

Gonzalez stood out from the start of her career since most of the 1,400 riggers in the Army are male, but it's her dedication to her job, her Soldiers and her career that makes her excel.

"A lot of times, I'm the only female [noncommissioned officer] in the company other than my first sergeant," said Gonzalez. "There are usually only two of us."

Gonzalez's first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Michi Hewitt isn't a stranger to her capabilities and qualities, and knows just how important Gonzalez is to the rigger field.

It's really deceiving when someone first meets Gonzalez

because of her appearance, said Hewitt.

"You wouldn't expect someone like her to have that kind of attitude," she added.

"There's very few people I can match against someone of her caliber," Hewitt said. "She is someone that can manage her personnel and resources. If you tell her that you need something, it has to be done, you don't have to check twice. I know it will get done."

Being a non-commissioned officer, Gonzalez aspires to be more than just an NCO, but a good one. Since becoming a rigger, Gonzalez has packed over 5,000 parachutes and now takes her attention from packing herself to making sure her 12 Soldiers do it right.

"For me it's more important for me to supervise. I'm depending on these Soldiers to pack their chutes properly. I'm putting trust in that individual Soldier to do the right thing."

Following in the footsteps of her grandfather, Gonzalez decided to join the Army in 1997, six months after graduating from high school.

"I wanted to join the Army since I was a kid. My grandfather was in the Army in Korea," she said. "I wanted to be airborne. I chose the rigger field because that made sure I stayed on airborne status throughout my whole career. I thought it would be pretty cool to jump out of an airplane."

When Gonzalez first enlisted, it was only for three years in case she didn't like life in the Army, she said. Now after nine years of rigging parachutes and supervising other riggers, she's ready to take her career to new heights.

"There's 70 (rigger) warrant officers and only six are female and that's my goal – to become a warrant officer," Gonzalez said. "Warrant officers are pretty much the subject matter experts for the rigger field. And that's how I want to change the rigger field."

Aside from her progressing career as a rigger, Gonzalez remains dedicated to her two boys, D'Angelo, 4, and Antonio, 1, which has become more of a challenge since her husband, Luis, a civilian contractor, started working in Iraq.

"It's difficult, but I've been in very understanding units that have helped me out," she said.

With everything going on in her life, Gonzalez's career isn't yielding to the challenges she's facing, and she's made that very clear to her supervisors.

"She's definitely on the fast track," said Hewitt. "She's not stopping here. She really is aspiring to greater heights."



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

**Staff Sgt. Crystal Gonzalez, a parachute rigger with the 647th Quartermaster Company, supervises one of her 12 Soldiers while he packs a parachute at the 647th Qm. Co. pack shed.**

# COSCOM Chaplains host second Clergy Day

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

Whether on post or off post, Soldiers seek guidance from higher spiritual powers, and intermediaries in the form of Army chaplains or civilian clergy aid Soldiers to get what they need.

The chaplaincy of the 1st Corps Support Command hosted a second Clergy Day April 7 at the Watters Center here to share ideas and build connections with local civilian clergymen in the best interest of Soldiers wherever they worship.

The 1st COSCOM chaplains hosted a second Clergy Day after the success of the first one in October 2005. Over 400 clergymen were invited to attend, many of who attended the first conference, said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Edwin Ahl, 1st COSCOM deputy chaplain.

"It was just time for another one and we were just trying to fit it in with everything going on with the (1st COSCOM) transformation," he said. "It turned out well. It was a wide diversity of faiths. We had Methodists, Baptists, non-denominational, and Lutheran (just to name a few). We were hoping to get more ministers. We had about 35 or 40 ministers come."

"That was a little disappointing but I realize churches have their own agendas and that maybe it was a bad day for them," Ahl added.

For Rev. William R. Nichols, a minister at Raeford's Community United Methodist Church, the Clergy Day was his first time attending the recurring event.

"I liked it, I didn't know the military offered so many opportunities in spiritual reference," he said. "We have about two or three Soldiers who go to church and we have a lot of retired military members who attend."

During the conference, the attendees broke up into work groups to discuss events and support that their churches offer to Soldiers who attend their services. Some of the topics discussed were ways to aid Soldiers with financial difficulties, marital problems and families left behind during a deployment.

"The group I had was very talkative, very helpful," said Ahl. "They helped each other, and it gave them a good resource base in each other. Some churches were doing good things for Soldiers that another church might not have thought of yet."

With many support programs available both on and off base, sharing ideas and information on support groups was one of the main goals of the conference.

"I wanted to learn the agencies that affect the Soldiers in a spiritual manner that could help me as a pastor help the Soldiers and the spouses and children (of those Soldiers)," said Nichols.

Gathering with other clergymen was not only beneficial for the local ministries, but also for those who hosted the event aside from the networking goals established from the conception of the conference.

"The best part is always the fellowship - getting to talk to the ministers and getting to know one another," said Ahl. "Sharing ideas and concerns on how to better take care of the Soldiers was also a very good part."

The COSCOM Chaplains are hoping to continue this program.

"I know [Chaplain (Col.) David Reese, the 1st COSCOM chaplain,] wanted to plan another one down the road," said Ahl. "It's a good thing and it should be continued because it shows the local clergy what Soldiers are doing and allows them to find ways to take care of their Soldiers."

Not only do the military chaplains think that conference yielded positive results, but the local clergy did as well.

*See CLERGY page 50*



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

**Chap. (Lt. Col.) Edwin Ahl, 1st COSCOM deputy chaplain, discusses issues Soldiers face and how they can be resolved with a workshop made up of local clergymen during the 1st COSCOM's second Clergy Day held at the Watters Center here.**



# COSCOM unit receives prestigious aviation award

By Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

The Army Aviation Association of America announced its calendar year 2005 National Award Winners. Winning units and individuals were recognized at the 2006 AAAA Annual Convention, held April 10-12, in Nashville, Tenn.

Among the winners was the 4th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, the only aviation asset in the 1st Corps Support Command.

The AAAA Annual Convention provides an opportunity for its members to gather with government and industry representatives concerned with Army Aviation and participate in professional program and exhibits.

The first AAAA Annual Convention was held in June 1959 and has taken place every year since then. In recent years, the sites of the AAAA Annual Convention have included Atlanta, Ga.; Fort Worth, Texas and Orlando, Fla.

Sponsored by the Northrop Grumman Corporation ESSS, the 4th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt. became the 2005 Robert M. Leich Award recipient for their sustained contributions to Army Aviation and for their outstanding performance in the Global War on Terrorism.

As the XVIII Airborne Corps aviation maintenance battalion, 4th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt. has long provided exceptional aviation intermediate maintenance support to units that include the 18th Combat Aviation Brigade, the 229th Avn. Regt. (Attack) and the 56th Medical

**See AWARD page 41**



Courtesy photo

**Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment conduct recovery operations of a downed UH-60 Black Hawk in February 2005 while in Baghdad, Iraq. The unit received the prestigious Robert M. Leich Aviation Award for their sustained contributions to Army Aviation, which includes aircraft recovery operations, and for their performance in the Global War on Terrorism.**



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# The 1st Sustainment Command (Theater)

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**From AWARD, page 39**

Battalion. The unit provided a full spectrum of maintenance.

Shortly after returning from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, the 4th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt. prepared and redeployed to Balad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While in Iraq, the battalion was tasked organized to command and control not only the headquarters and Company I organic to itself, but also other active duty and National Guard units that included elements from the 123rd, 238th, and 52nd Aviation Maintenance Battalions and over 235 civilian contractors. As a result of their efforts, the 4th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt. directly enabled their support aviation units to fly more than 100,000 hours while performing more than 200 aircraft phase inspections on AH-64 Apaches, UH-60 Black Hawks and CH-47D Chinook helicopters.

The unit also performed more than a dozen down aircraft recovery missions and countless component repairs to return damaged helicopters to the operation fleet.

The 4th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt. set up and

operated the largest Class IX Air Supply Support Activity in the Army with over 12,000 lines of stockage and processed over 85,000 material release orders. They also

developed a hub and spoke system for the movement of aviation parts throughout the entire theater of Iraq and Kuwait.

The award could not have been presented to the 4th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt. at a better time, completing its final legacy, since unit is inactivating.

In supporting the Army's goal of transforming to a modular force, the 4th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt. will inactivate leaving behind a plethora of major accomplishment and will forever leave its mark in history.



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Various Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment conduct phase maintenance for a variety of aircraft in garrison and while deployed. (Above) Two non-destructive Soldiers inspect an AH-64 Apache for body damage at Camp Anaconda, Balad, Iraq. (Below) An aviation maintenance Soldier works on the hydraulics for an aircraft while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Below) A Soldier completes rigging a damaged CH-47 Chinook while in Afghanistan.**

Courtesy photo



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca



Editor's note:

Information for this article was pulled from the Army Aviation Association of America press release.

# Soldiers from the 330th MCB deploy to Afghanistan

By Spc. Jerome Bishop

About 40 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 330th Movement Control Battalion, 1st Corps Support Command departed from Dahl Fitness Center here Mar. 6 on the first leg of their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Family and friends of the 330th MCB Soldiers gathered to say good-bye during the deployment ceremony prior to the Soldiers' departure.

The deployment ceremonies give Soldiers one final chance to spend time with their families and friends.

Sgt. Jason Law, a transportation coordinator from HHD, 330th MCB, didn't waste a moment with his wife Sherry and three daughters Jessica, 11, Jennifer, 7, and Kyla, 3.

Law, however, is facing a complication he's never had to worry about during past deployments.

"I deployed several times years and years ago," said Law, "Five years ago in Bosnia for one year, then to Norway and Turkey with NATO and those were both for two months."

"It was a lot easier back then because I was single," he added.

Law's daughters, although not excited for him to leave, have been behaving rather well given the circumstances.

"[The kids] haven't been too bad, they've been pretty calm. They're aware that I'm leaving, I just don't think they understand why, but things have been pretty calm so far."

"I think (Kyla) knows I'm leaving but she doesn't understand," Law said. "The other two are handling it pretty well..."

"...for right now," Sherry added with a small laugh.

Unlike some families, Sherry Law has a small advantage which she thinks will help in taking care of the family while her husband is gone, she said.

"I used to be in the army myself. I understand more than the normal military wife," said Sherry. "I went to Bosnia for two months."

Preparing for deployment wasn't difficult for the Law family since both Jason and Sherry know what it's like to spend time overseas.

With only about 50 percent of the HHD, 330th Soldiers deploying, some of the Soldiers who are staying behind, like Spc. Eddie Girard, a transportation coordinator from the unit, hoped they would be among the Soldiers deploying.

"I tried to deploy but they wouldn't let me," said Girard. "I just got back from a deployment and they have two people on their list to deploy [this

***"It's a hard thing; nothing worth while is ever easy. But coming home makes it worth it."***

**-Sgt. Jason Law**

time]."

Despite the hardships that are common during deployment, Girard was more than happy to volunteer for this deployment, and wished those who left would return home safe, he said.

Moments later, the deploying Soldiers said their last good-byes to their loved ones. Even seeing the Soldiers say good-bye, Girard still looked down from the gym bleachers wishing he could join his comrades.

"I want to go because it's what I joined for," said Girard.

Down on the gym floor, the Law family held each other for one last time before the Soldiers loaded up on the bus.

"I don't want him to leave, but he has to do what he has to do," said Sherry.

"It's a hard thing; nothing worth while is ever easy. But coming home makes it worth it," said Law, as he looked at his youngest daughter while he held her in his arms.



# Chaplain's Corner

## New Directions, Same Spirit

*Regardless of what direction you turn, you gotta go somewhere; you can't just stand still.* -Anonymous

It seems as though the central theme of every conversation the last six months has been "change." In spite of the particular euphemism one might use – whether "transition" or "transformation" – it is still "change." And we don't particularly like change.

The temptation to hold onto that which is familiar and comfortable is human nature. Unless we are an adventurous, risk-taking, free spirited nature, we prefer things to stay relatively calm, with few surprises along the way. This is why we get frustrated and angry when emergencies throw our plans aside or something interrupts our schedule. It is our nature to avoid chaos.

However, as long as we wear a uniform or are part of a family that fills in its calendar based on PCS, TDY, deployment, or duty rosters, we know that change is the only constant. Deep inside we know that we can't just stand still. We must move in a new direction.

The transformation of the Corps Support Command to a Sustainment



**Col. David Reese**  
1st COSCOM Chaplain

Command (Theater) requires two things: celebration of the past and anticipation of the future. "1st COSCOM" bears the heritage and tradition from more than 40 years ago. Some remember a time when the patch did not carry the Airborne tab – when it was simply the red, white, and blue disc with

an oddly leaning arrow that sometimes endured not so kind titles. Now history has come full circle and with the rip of Velcro® the 1st COSCOM has become the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater).

It has a new direction, but the same spirit. It has a new area of responsibility, but the same soul. It has a new look, but the same dedication and excellence brought about by Soldiers who work hard every day.

God has a unique way of using change to shake us out of complacency, to challenge us to grow, and to help us rely on him. My prayer for all of us is that we will step out in a new direction that allows God's constant grace to be known in an even stronger way, because after all ...

You can't just stand still.

### Chaplain Contact

|                                       |                     |
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| <b>Chap. (Capt.) Grady Gentry</b>     | <b>910-907-2014</b> |

## From the Mule's Mouth

What do you think about the 1st COSCOM transforming into the 1st TSC?



"I don't notice any difference; only the name seems to have changed."

**Sgt. Derek Canute**  
Heat and Airconditioning Mechanic  
HHC, 1st COSCOM



"I don't think that it is a good or bad thing. It is part of the change in the Army."

**-Spc. Kenneth McNay**  
Multimedia Graphic Illustrator  
46th Corps Support Group



"I don't care for the COSCOM changing because it has been around for a very long time"

**Pfc. Thomas Preseler**  
Ammunitions Specialist  
Corps Distribution Command

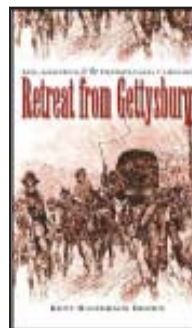
# Military Professional Reading



## On Killing

Author: Lt. Col. Dave Grossman

The twentieth century, with its bloody world wars, revolutions, and genocides accounting for hundreds of millions dead, would seem to prove that human beings are incredibly vicious predators and that killing is as natural as eating. But Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman, a psychologist and U.S. Army Ranger, demonstrates this is not the case. The good news, the vast majority of soldiers are loath to kill. The bad news is that by conditioning soldiers to overcome their instinctive loathing of killing, we have drastically increased post-combat stress.



## Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics and the Pennsylvania Campaign

Author: Kent M. Brown

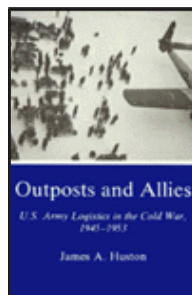
In a comprehensive history of the Army of Northern Virginia's retreat from Gettysburg in July 1863, Kent M. Brown draws on previously untapped sources to chronicle the massive effort of General Robert E. Lee and his command as they sought to move people, equipment, and scavenged supplies through hostile territory and plan the army's next moves. Lee's deliberate pace, skillful use of terrain, and constant positioning of the army behind defenses so as to invite attack caused Union forces to delay their own movements at critical times.



## Accelerated Logistics: Streamlining the Army's Supply Chain

Author: Mark Y.D. Wang

In June 1998, U.S. Vice President Al Gore and the National Partnership for Reinventing Government presented a team of Army logisticians and RAND analysts the "Hammer Award" in recognition of a great accomplishment: making Army logistics work better and cost less. This report documents that achievement. The implementation and optimization of a reliable high-volume distribution system proved instrumental in providing the Army with premium-level service that is faster, better, and cheaper. As a result, Army customers now routinely receive the quick and dependable level of service they have come to expect from a high-performing commercial supply chain.



## Outposts and Allies: U.S. Army Logistics in the Cold War, 1945-1953

Author: James A. Huston

A thorough account of the Army's transition from full mobilization in wartime to peacetime support of overseas forces & allies. Reviews WWII demobilization & the rebuilding of forces & bases in Europe & North Africa, application of the Truman Doctrine in aid to Greece & Turkey, attempts to build Iran as a security force in the Middle East, & the origins of NATO & aid to Western Europe. Details assistance in the Far East, support of Japan, efforts to bolster French defense in Indochina, & maintenance of bases & government assistance in the Philippines. Also discusses the defense of the Western Hemisphere.





## Soldier Family Readiness Group

**1st TSC**  
**Staff Duty (910)396-6007**

**507th CSG**  
**Staff Duty (910)396-7145**

### **“Your current safe boundaries were once unknown frontiers.”**

What a wild and crazy ride we have all been on for the past several months. But alas, we are at the beginning of a whole new era. The jobs that our Soldiers do both down range and at home are defining not only their future but the future of the entire Army. It is so exciting to know that history is in the making with us being a real part of it.

Change is inevitable and how you view those changes is part of who you are now and will become later. Henry Ward Beecher said. “Character, like porcelain must be painted before it is glazed. There can be no change when it is burnt in.” How true that is. Regardless of what unit patch is on our arm, each of us still have a mission and a goal. Take pride in the amazing job completed by

the 1st COSCOM team and then take pride in who we are now.

As a wise leader often says, “One mind, one heart, one purpose.”

#### **What can the SFRG do?**

Empower families to become more knowledgeable and self-reliant.

Promotes more efficient use of community resources.

Increases the Soldier’s ability to devote his/ her full attention to the mission by offering reassurance that the family members have close, reliable and friendly support.

Provides a helping hand when needed and gives moral support.

Wants to establish a sense of family within the unit.

Helps family members develop a positive attitude toward themselves, the unit, the mission and the Army.

Help increase morale for the Soldiers and the family members.

Fosters a level of cohesion and confidence for Soldiers and families.

#### **Who can be in the SFRG?**

**ANYONE!**

Married and single Soldiers, spouses, children and even extended family members like mom and or dad.

“Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don’t recognize them.”  
-Ann Landers

### **Helpful Numbers**

#### **EMERGENCY 911**

Chaplain Helpline 396-4357

Advice Nurse 907-6877

Airborne Attice 907-2842

ARC 396-1231

ACS 369-8682

BOSS 396-7751

CYS 366-8110

DSS 323-1540

EFMP 396-2749

On-post Housing 764-4500

ID Card Facility 396-9339

Joel Clinic 907-5365

Legal 396-2511

MP Station 396-0391

Multicultural Cntr 396-8682

MWR Rec Cntr 396-7060

Pharmacy Refill 907-7676

Post Information 396-0011

Relocation 396-8682

Substance Abuse 396-5784

TRICARE 877-874-2273

WAMC 907-6000

WIC 433-3751

Family Advocate 396-4175

Domestic Violence

677-2532

New Parent Support

396-7951

Social Work Office

907-7869

Rape Crisis Cntr 485-7273

Vet Clinic 396-6473

### **SFRGA**

Cindy Fitzgerald 396-6345

303-9110

Shannon Madrid 907-2376

303-9112

### **With Summer just around the corner, here are a few ideas to keep you cool on the hottest of days**

Take a dip at one of the many on-post pools. Swimming lessons, adult only swim times, and even a few with snack bars help to make Fort Bragg pools a clean, friendly, and affordable place to relax.

Pack a picnic lunch to take with you and don’t forget your sun screen!

Have you been to the

beach lately? We are only a few hours away from Camp Lejeune in one direction and Myrtle Beach in the other. Whether you are the surf-boarding and beach volleyball type or the build sandcastles and work on your tan type, there is something just for you. Flying kites and jumping in the crashing waves is also fun!

If you are more the indoor air conditioner type, try the bowling alley, catch a matinee at the movie theater, or venture to one of the many area museums. You can find great specials and more ideas at the Fort Bragg ITR Office located inside the mini-mall or online at [www.fortbraggmwr.com](http://www.fortbraggmwr.com).

***From GENERALS, page 5***

also deployed troops to Louisiana in support of the Hurricane Katrina relief.

“It was an incredible two and a half years. You are magnificent,” Fontaine said as he lauded the hundreds of COSCOM troops that stood on the parade field before him.

Following his tenure with the 1st COSCOM, Fontaine will become the deputy chief of staff, G-4 for U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

“It is an extremely humbling experience and a proved positive that divine intervention is alive and well,” Leonard said referencing taking command of the 1st COSCOM. “[The COSCOM has] set a new standard for logistical support. It is indeed an honor and privilege to join this great team and follow the Fontaines in command for the second time in the last five years.”

In similar career paths both Fontaine and Leonard served as deputy chief of staff of logistics for the United States Army Special Operations Command, and both were commanders of the Special Operations Support Command at Fort Bragg.

In drawing near the end of his speech, Leonard did answer the question that many Soldiers tend to have on their minds when receiving a new commander.

“What will change as the COSCOM gains a new leader,” he said. “To be certain, we face many challenges in the days ahead and I

can’t say right now whether we will ‘run the ball’ or ‘go for a deep pass’. But, I can tell you this; the end result will be the same. This team of winners... logistic warriors, will continue to provide the best support possible to American Soldiers anytime, anywhere, any place,” he added.

Leonard will be the last commander for the 1st COSCOM under its current name as the



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

**Load and flight crews members watch as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is loaded into a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III Jan. 29 at Yellow Ramp on Pope Air Force Base.**

command will soon transition into the 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

***From BLACKHAWKS, page 6***

time,” said Martini. “No one organization or individual could have pulled this off without the rest of

the team and there were a lot of people in a lot of places that brought this mission to completion.”

The execution of loading the Black Hawks onto the C-17, once it arrived only served to reinforce the ability of teamwork of those responsible for making this mission happen.

“From start to finish, it took two hours and 45 minutes and that was from lowering the ramp of the

aircraft to securing the last chain and walking away,” said Martini. “We were (initially) figuring anywhere from four to five hours.”

“The level of expertise from the deployment support team and the 82nd CAB made [the operation] run as smooth as it did. The 82nd CAB are the experts at loading that type of aircraft,” Martini added.

The Black Hawks departed Pope AFB for the Middle East shortly before 1 p.m. Jan. 30 where they’ll be received shortly and put to use.

“MFO will have all the helicopters on the ground Feb. 1,” said Martini.

“They’ll continue to train all their pilots and they’ll start flying only the UH-60s by the end of March. After that they’ll begin to retrograde the Hueys back to the Continental U.S.”

***From SUPERGROUP, page 7***

The 46th Quartermaster Truck Regiment was reformed as the 46th Direct Support Group at Fort Devens, Ma., and in the spring of 1972 moved to Fort Bragg, N.C.



where it was reorganized as the 46th Corp Support Group under the 1st COSCOM. In March of 1987, the 46th CSG underwent further reorganization as a full range multifunctional combat service support unit.

“Commanding the 46th CSG was a once in a lifetime opportunity,” McMillin said.

Past commanders agreed with McMillin.

“This has been a premier command to put our senior officers in,” said retired Army Col. Gary L. Juskowiak.

Juskowiak, who had spent his fair share of mission and operational support with the unit, commanded the 46th CSG between 1994 and 1995.

“It’s a bittersweet ceremony and hard to see a set of colors with proud lineage go,” Juskowiak said.

The corps support group saw its share of combat during World War II when the unit supported U.S. Forces in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Central Europe and Germany. Additionally, the 46th CSG successfully participated in a number of other combat operations, which included Operation Just Cause, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and more recently, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom where it was the first corps support group to cross into Iraq.

McMillin who deployed with the 46th CSG in support of OIF III this past year said that any of the former commanders and command sergeants major would be proud of the way the unit performed during their deployment.

“We had the right focus despite being short on people. A lot of Soldiers stepped up to the plate,” McMillin said.

Other operations that the 46th CSG participated in included

providing humanitarian aid and relief efforts in the Caribbean Islands during Operation Hawkeye and Operation Safe Harbor. The corps support group also provided support in other disaster relief efforts including Hurricanes Marilyn and Fran. During the humanitarian missions, The 46th CSG provided logistical supplies and services including water purification, fuel distribution, and the receipt, distribution and storage of all classes of supply.

Even while involved in combat operations, the inactivation of the 46th CSG was at the back of everyone’s mind, McMillin said.

“There was a lot of uncertainty because [the Soldiers assigned to the unit] didn’t know where they were going to work or if they would have to move to another installation,” he said.

However, the command was able to lessen the anxiety by prepping the Soldiers in advance for the big change.

“I am excited to see the changes that are going on in the Army,” said Spc. Kenneth W. McNay, a 25-year-old multimedia illustrator for the 46th CSG since 2004.

“It’s pretty cool to be a part of (the transformation),” McNay said. It is fulfilling and satisfying to see all of the preparation and planning come to fruition at this ceremony, he said.

While the 46th CSG will go away, many of its subordinate units will temporarily remain or permanently transfer to different units that will either fall under the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) or the 82nd Airborne Division.

Some of the subordinate units will fall under the 507th CSG, one of the three and the only 1st COSCOM units that will still exist as a Corps asset, instead of under the 1st TSC, said McMillin.

“There are a lot of changes that are still occurring and that will be ongoing,” McMillin said. “That’s the great thing about the Army, Soldiers are flexible.”

Although the unit will no longer exist, it will not be forgotten.

“I think that the ‘Super Group’ is going to be missed because for the longest time our job was to support the brigade separates,” McMillin said. “We built a pretty good rapport across (Fort) Bragg and made a lasting impression.”

### ***From AIRBORNE, page 9***

“You just feel good and you can see all the beauty of what we call home [when exiting the aircraft].”

Even though Nieto will no longer wear the maroon beret he wants to emphasize that he and other members of the COSCOM won’t bring any less enthusiasm or dedication to the mission.

“The fact that we jump or not jump for a living does not change our purpose of who we are,” he said.

Airborne operations here are normally conducted by means of a C-130 Hercules or a C-17 Globemaster III, however, with the support of the United States Army Special Operations Command, the 1st COSCOM had the unique opportunity to jump out of a perfectly good CASA.

“This was my first CASA jump,” said Spc. Stephen M. Vosburg, a parachute rigger for the 647th Quartermaster Company, 264th Corps Support Battalion, 1st COSCOM. “It was a little intimidating at first because I didn’t know what to expect, but once I got into the aircraft I was comfortable.”

Being a young specialist in the Army, Vosburg’s chances of participating in airborne operation is

***Continued on next page***

***Continued from previous page***

probably a lot better than other Soldiers in the COSCOM.

However, it is being a member of the COSCOM he will miss most.

"It is always a good thing to be apart of something that is historical, so I feel a little special," Vosburg said. "It is sad that COSCOM is [going away]. I have been [in the unit] for two years and within those two years we have done a lot and I have worked real hard for a lot of good people."

While the 1st COSCOM will inactivate and lose its airborne status, its transformation to the 1st TSC will bring a larger scope of responsibility where it will provide support to the Central Command area of operation.

"It was a great jump," Leonard said. "It was a great opportunity for us to exit this CASA sponsored by the United States Army Special Operation Command here on Sicily Drop Zone for my paratroopers one last time."

***From CONNELLY, page 15***

but support from the Soldiers around me."

"This is a good experience for a new chief," said Harry Ruckel, competition judge and food program manager for the Fort Bragg Installation Food Management Office. "He is stepping into a winning team."

Since the Connelly competition and transformation was upon them, members of the 1st COSCOM food service staff had planned and prepped for the competition since November after winning the Installation Thanksgiving Culinary Competition.

SFC Anthony W. Morris, dining facility manager for the 1st COSCOM, and Sgt. 1st Class Lena Williams, food operations sergeant

for the 8th Ord. Co., orchestrated and ensured that the competition ran smoothly for their units.

After returning from Iraq in June 2005, Morris volunteered for the dining facility position. Although new to the position, Morris has been in the COSCOM for nearly four years.

"This is my first Connelly competition at this level with the unit, but it isn't my first," Morris said.

Morris has competed in three Connelly competition while serving with the COSCOM and more than 12 others during his Army career.



Photo by Capt. Sonise Lumbaca

**Sgt. Brad K. Endres, food service specialist, 1st Corps Support Command cuts up spare ribs in preparation to make Cantonese Barbeque Ribs during the Philip A. Connelly food service competition for the large garrison dining facility category Feb. 22 at the BlackJack dining facility. Endres, a 23 year old native of Cincinnati, Ohio, considers himself a veteran of the Connelly competition after having served with the 1st COSCOM for over four years.**



Morris discovered that the key to winning the food service competitions is teamwork.

“Taking Soldiers’ knowledge, knowing how to work well with them and understanding them; everyone has different personalities and experiences,” Morris said. “Knowing how to manage all of them and knowing where they are coming from is the key that makes all the difference.”

Pvt. Daniel L. McMenemy, food service specialist for the 1st COSCOM, is excited to be a part of the winning team and was ready to meet the challenge.

“This was the first (competition) for me, so this is kind of a big deal for me,” McMenemy said. “There are big shoes to fill and so much pressure especially since the unit is (transforming), but I think that I am up for the challenge.”

McMenemy, arrived to COSCOM about six months ago after attending the Advances Individual Training at Fort Lee, Va.

McMenemy said that since his arrival to the 1st COSCOM, everyone has treated him as a member of the team.

“One thing that I personally look at [in judging] is how the cooks work as a team, because that is what’s going to take them to the next level,” said Willie Meeks, competition judge and assistant food program manager for the Installation Food Management Office here.

This was the first time that the COSCOM has won both field and garrison competitions simultaneously. The 1st COSCOM competed against members of the 82nd Airborne Division and other Corps separate brigades. In winning the installation level Philip A. Connelly food service competition, the 1st COSCOM now has the opportunity to compete at Forces



Photo by Spc. Jerome Bishop

**A Soldier from 330th Movement Control Battalion, 507th Corps Support Group, 1st Corps Support Command calls in a situation report in order to give status on a simulated vehicular ambush during the unit’s Convoy Live-Fire Exercise.**

Command and eventually Department of the Army level.

#### ***From CONVOY Page 16***

Since the method of moving supplies varies in Iraq and Afghanistan due to terrain and other differences between the nations,

combat logistic patrols might not even be required by the 330th MCB.

“The Soldiers never know the situation they’ll find themselves in so we have to be prepared wherever we go,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Corey Woodard, 330th MCB command sergeant major. “We’re

***Continued on next page***

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going to train for all deployment tasks, regardless of where we're going to find ourselves."

After the live-fire portion of the exercise, which was followed by a dry run and a blank-fire run, the Soldiers made an additional run-through of the range with a variant intended to add a different level of realism.

Since the night doesn't bar operations from continuing down range, a night-time run through the range helped Soldiers prepare for an additional situation they may be faced with.

The Soldiers who participated in the CLFX know how valuable the training is, whether or not they participated in a combat logistics patrol the last time the 330th MCB deployed.

"I think it's going to help not just me but everyone else," Pvt. Michael Norton, a transportation coordinator from HHD, 330th MCB. "It'll give them a good idea of what to expect."

"I went on a few [combat logistics patrols]," Norton added. "It's probably a lot different in Afghanistan than in Iraq, but there's still bad guys in Afghanistan."

Pop up targets off the side of the road on a range can hardly compare to terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the Soldiers of the 330th MCB and 164th MCT took away knowledge that could save their lives.

"The training was excellent. The Soldiers thoroughly enjoyed it as well as learned from it," said Woodard. "I'm extremely pleased with what I saw today."

***From TF, page 35***

environment," said Urey "If you're not happy at home, you're not

happy at work."

"The areas that the general has addressed will be out there for a long time. I think the need for these task forces will always be here," Urey added. "Especially with safety because safety is the quality of life."

***Task Force Readiness***

As the Army continues to participate in operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, the deployment of Soldiers from the 1st COSCOM will happen.

To help maintain preparation and readiness for such deployments, Leonard established Task Force Readiness to assist the Soldiers and the 1st COSCOM in making sure that the unit is ready to deploy. Some of the Task Force Readiness scope includes budget planning, and making sure that there's enough training and equipment for the Soldiers to succeed in their mission.

Since the Blackjack Action Plan is constantly evolving, not many details are available on the specific goals that Task Force Readiness will strive to achieve.

Although each of these task forces are organized to function on their own, all of them could be called on at any time to depend on one another, and maybe even a third in order to prevent an issue.

For example, domestic violence is an issue that Leonard has assigned to Task Force Safety for research into prevention.

"When the task forces work together to solve an issue that could be important to both task forces," Leonard said. "When you talk about victim's advocacy, it also dovetails into Task Force Family."

Another example is the connection between Task Force PT and Task Force Transformation.

Due to the time differences

between Fort Bragg and CENTCOM forces stationed in the Middle East, Soldiers from the 1st COSCOM may find themselves at work or in a briefing in order to collaborate with other Soldiers overseas, said Samonte.

"Because of our commitment to [U.S. Army Central Command], there are morning battle update briefings that might interfere with PT hours," Lopez said. "So that section will have to do it in the afternoon or evening."

Another concern is that with Soldiers conducting PT during the afternoon and evening, drivers traveling in the 1st COSCOM area will need to be informed of the increase of Soldiers near the roads. Such an issue would involve Task Force Safety in resolving the original transformation-PT conflict.

The true nature of the Blackjack Action Plan is a bold move to improve upon the system of relaying ideas and information. In an Army where an idea had to travel a long way, Leonard's Blackjack Action Plan will be a welcome step in alleviating the challenges in improving the unit.

"I really want Soldiers to be empowered to participate in these task forces," Leonard said.

"There's an opportunity for Soldiers to be empowered to make a difference. It's incumbent on the leaders and the Soldiers to make a difference."

***From CLERGY, page 38***

"In everyday ministry if I come in contact with a person who needs help in the military I can refer them (to good agencies)," said Nichols. "Plus, I'm learning more about the average Soldier."

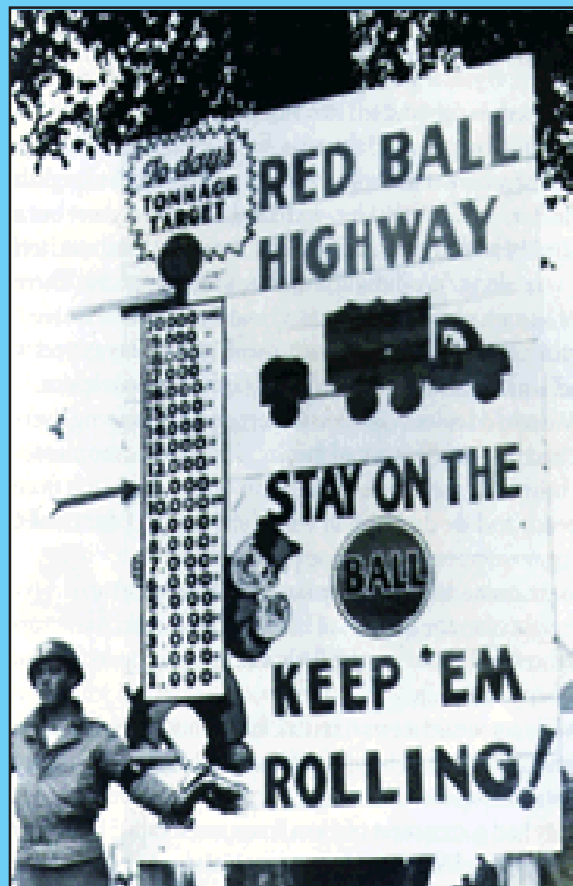


# History and Logistics

## "The Red Ball Express"



The Red Ball Express was a massive convoy effort to supply the Allied armies moving through Europe. It was the most important factor in the rapid defeat of the German army. At the peak of its operation it operated 5,958 vehicles, carried 12,342 tons of supplies to forward depots.

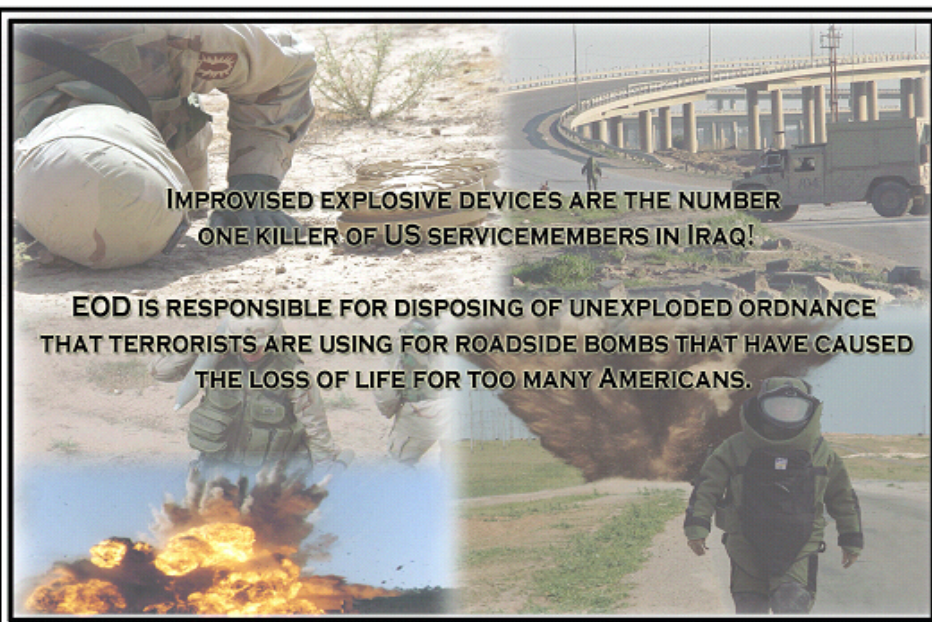


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